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17 lawyers join opposition to bail reform legislation. **PAGE 2**
Free typhoon relief packs to be handed out on Rota. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Torres

IN TORRES' CRIMINAL CASE

Defense eyes April 2024 trial

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The jury trial in the criminal case of former governor Ralph DLG Torres has yet to be rescheduled anew but the defense has verbally proposed any date in April 2024.

In a motion hearing and status conference at the Superior Court last Monday to discuss the status of the case, the de-

fense, led by Viola Alepuyo, said they are proposing a trial date in April 2024 to give
See DEFENSE on Page 4

Oh My Grill tops 'Taste' cookoff

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Oh My Grill chefs Kent Kalen and Eric Palacios topped the Kadun Pika cooking competition last Saturday at the start

of the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Despite being newbies to the Taste of the Marianas' *See COOKOFF on Page 4*



Oh My Grill chefs Eric Palacios, left, and Kent Kalen pose for a photo after being named the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas Kadun Pika cooking competition champs. The two are the men behind Oh My Grill's delicious dishes, which will be available every Saturday this month at their booth at the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES



DPW mulls increasing tipping fees

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
115

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works is considering increasing the tipping fees at DPW's Transfer Station in Lower Base and Marpi Landfill.

Speaking at the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives budget hearing yesterday for



Yumul

DPW's budget for fiscal year 2024, DPW Secretary Ray N. Yumul said they will be revisiting *See DPW on Page 4*

ROASTED COW

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, right, and Senate vice president Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) are joined by a visitor in serving up a whole, barbecued cow at the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on June 3, 2023, on Saipan. The festival, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, will be held every evening through June at Garapan Fishing Base. *See related story and photos on Page 5 and 7*

MVA

INSIDE



BUSINESS

McDonald's of Saipan sponsors the Oceania Cup and Oceania Masters Athletics Championship.

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WORLD

Ukrainian forces were making an effort to punch through Russian defensive lines in south Ukraine

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Homes make a first impression on visitors within seconds of entering the foyer, or point of entry.

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Local

17 lawyers join opposition to bail reform legislation

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seventeen lawyers have joined the position of Chief Public Defender Douglas W. Hartig to oppose the proposed changes in a bill that seeks to deny bail for violent, repeat offenders and imposes conditions for their release.

In written comments Friday on a revised draft of House Bill 23-33, or the Keisha King Bail Reform Act, Hartig said this is not a bail reform legislation as much as it is an obstruction of justice bill designed to interfere with the discretionary duties of the court.

"This bill stands for the notion of presumed guilty and locked up until found not guilty," Hartig said.

He said the Office of the Public Defender would be happy to work with the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee to identify and propose evidence-based bills that can put in place measures for a fairer and just legal system and a safer community.

JGO Committee chair Rep. Marissa R. Flores (Ind-Saipan) is the author of the bill. The committee discussed the legislation during a recent meeting, but did not act on it to allow Hartig, who was off-island at the time, an opportunity to comment.

The 17 lawyers who joined Hartig's comments are Robert Torres, Colin Thompson, Victorino Torres, Joey P. San Nicolas, Joaquin Torres, Oliver Manglona, Janet King, Richard Miller, Charity Hodson, Michael N. Evangelista, Bruce Berline, Vincent Torres, Joe W. McDoulett, Molly Dennert, Karie Comstock, Steve Pixley, and Matthew Holley.

Hartig said the bill cannot be reconciled with the current Rules of Criminal Procedure.

"It has no practical, statistical, or legal justification. Rather, it would unnecessarily increase the financial burden on CNMI taxpayers and government to pay for pretrial detention," he said.

Hartig said the changes outlined in this bill would have

no positive or practical impact on community safety. Instead, this would simply serve to trample on the rights of CNMI citizens accused of crimes, ruin families, and cause unemployment, and may even cause the death of people accused of minor misdemeanors.

He said that, even as revised, the bill appears to be written without an understanding of the CNMI legal system.

"Not only is the unconstitutionality of this bill clear, but the proposed changes to statutes are in conflict with criminal rules of procedure and will be invalid," Hartig said.

CNMI Chief Solicitor Robert Glass had defended the legislation at a recent committee meeting, saying this bill focuses on repeat violent offenders that have violated the conditions of their release and probation.

The proposed bill is named after the late Keisha King, who was killed on March 12, 2020, by her boyfriend, Gordon Castro, a convicted felon with a substantial criminal history, who shot her.

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Free typhoon relief packs to be handed out on Rota

The Office of Grants Management and the Department of Public Works' Energy Division State Energy Program will be distributing portable gas stoves, butane canisters, rice, ramen noodles, and canned goods to families affected by Typhoon Mawar on Rota.

The drive-thru distribution event, which expands disaster relief activities for Rota,

will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at the Rota Man'Amko Center in Sinapalo from 9am to 7pm.

To avail of this Disaster Relief Assistance, residential homeowners must present a copy of a valid identification card and a copy of a most recent Commonwealth Utilities Corp. billing with the same name on the ID and CUC account. Residents

that are tenants of apartments, rental properties, etc., and not named as the CUC account holder must provide a copy of a lease or rental agreement.

If the residential homeowner with the CUC account holder's name is unable to make it, provide a letter of authorization along with a copy of the ID matching the CUC account name to avail

of the distribution item.

Businesses and rental property owners are not eligible. Individuals with sub-meters must receive an approved clearance document from the Rota Mayor's Office.

Due to limited supplies for this event, items will be available for distribution on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the

specified time only, while supplies last.

All vehicle operators and passengers must remain in their vehicles at all times and must follow all posted event signs and obey all event traffic flow signs.

In addition, staff from the Weatherization Assistance Program under the DPW Energy Division will be on Rota to assist anyone inter-

ested in applying for program services or if they were affected by Typhoon Mawar.

Funding opportunity for this project is made possible through grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy - State Energy Program; and Office of the Governor, Office of Grants Management, and the U.S. Department of the Interior. *(Saipan Tribune)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Incoming and outgoing Saipan Southern High School Interact officers, along with club members, pose with Rotary Club of Saipan president Wendell Posadas, Rotary Club of Saipan's New Generations Youth Service director Gregory Borja, and SHSS Interact Club advisor and Rotaract vice president Genelin Camacho for a picture after the induction of SHSS Interact 2023-24 officers during a short ceremony at the Sugar Dock in Susupe last Saturday.

SSHS Interact inducts new leadership

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Southern High Interact club bid farewell to their outgoing leaders and welcomed their new leadership last Saturday during a small ceremony at the Sugar Dock in Susupe.

The club's incoming members are Kayla Yi as president; Endymion San Nicolas taking the role of vice president; Bristhy Hossain as secretary, treasurer and historian; Shawn Salas as sergeant-at-arms; and Lydia Salas as the Community Service director. As she was off island, Yi was not able to make it to the induction, but San Nicolas shared with Saipan Tribune his remarks. "Coming in as new VP is honestly new to me because I've never been a high officer before..."

he said, but added that he is also excited to serve. "...I'm looking forward to helping the Interact club get better as the year goes on, and maybe more events to come."

Outgoing president Jessie Lynn Reyes said she is grateful not only for the opportunity, but also for those members who not only joined them for the ceremony that morning but have been with the club throughout the year.

They had a lot of active members at the beginning, Reyes said, but several have dropped out as the school year passed and so she is grateful to those that did stay and their dedication to the cause.

According to Reyes, a little more than half of the current Interact team are also a part of SHSS' 2023 graduates, leaving

behind 10 to 15 members who will carry on. She said Interact members would have to work hard this upcoming year, but she is confident that the club is in good hands.

Among the club's many efforts this past school year include their recent adoption of a bus stop in Dandan, and their back-to-school bash, and other fundraisers. Reyes said her most favorite memory was their Christmas drive, where they donated clothes and bags of goodies. "That... really helped me in building my leadership skills and getting to know everyone in the club," she said.

She said joining Interact is ideal for students who want to slowly get into more clubs in school. Since Interact is the start of the journey toward be-

coming a Rotaract and leading on to the Rotary Club, "you can really keep going with the life of Rotary and Interact and service above self."

Reyes noted that she'll be heading off to college soon, and she would also be looking into opportunities to join a Rotaract club.

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MOBILE OUTREACH CLINIC SCHEDULE

JUNE 2	Adult Wellness Check Update on personal medical history, blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals Nutrition Assistance Program, As Lito from 8AM - 11:30 AM
JUNE 8	Pride Clinic In collaboration with Pride Marianas for individuals interested in consultation for hormonal therapy, HIV/STD Testing, resources & referrals. Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje from 5PM - 8PM
JUNE 13 22	Child Wellness Check For children 0-17 years old. Measurements and growth, anticipatory guidance, resources & referrals Tanapag Youth Center from 1PM - 4:30PM San Vicente Youth Center from 1PM - 4:30 PM
JUNE 28	Women's Wellness Check For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals New Kagman Market from 8AM - 11:30 AM

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This project was supported by Grant #2020-V2-QX-0067 SUBGRANT BJ05755L awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the FY 2022 OVC VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program, Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice, sub-granted by the CNMI CJPA Supervisory Council. The Assistant Attorney General Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, and Violence Against Women Office. Point of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice or the CNMI CJPA Supervisory Council.

IN CASE OF DISASTER

CUC emergency backup system tested and ready

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The 1.5-megawatt engine at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 3 in Isley Field that serves as an

emergency backup system to power the water wells at the Saipan airport has already been tested and is ready to go.

Betty G. Terlaje, who is the acting CUC executive director, said in an interview Friday that the engine

at Power Plant 3 was ready for the recent Typhoon Mawar, but it was not needed because the typhoon spared Saipan.

"So it just standby at this point. Should there be a disaster again here,

that would power up our water wells right away," Terlaje said. "We warned it before the typhoon. It's been tested already. It is connected to our wells."

Terlaje said the purpose of Power Plant 3 is for an emergency backup system.

Funded by the Federal Emergency Management Office's \$7.3-million grant for the water hazard mitigation,

the engine, described as a Caterpillar, arrived on Saipan last April.

CUC said the engine is self-generating, which means it stands its own, is self-contained and will have remote control capability.

Power Plant 3 was deactivated in 2002. CUC reactivated it for the use of water wells during emergencies or disasters.

'2,217 lbs of UXOs detonated from Nov. 2021 to March 2023'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From Nov. 17, 2021 to March 2023, a total of 2,217 lbs of unexploded ordnance were donated at the Marpi Bomb Pit, according acting Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services commissioner Juan A. Pua yesterday.

Speaking at the Ways and Means Committee hearing at the House of Representatives for the DFEMS 2024 budget, Pua said that from the Hope Recovery Center construction site alone, they collected a total of 1,904 lbs of unexploded ordnance from Nov. 17, 2021 to March 14, 2022. In that same period, 10 detonations were made at the Marpi Bomb Pit.

He said the clearing of unexploded

ordnance in Marpi is ongoing with the coordination and assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In his update on the department's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive hazmat response, he said there was one 40-foot container acid leakage at Charlie Dock and it has been mitigated by their personnel.

With respect to budget matter, Pua said their proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 is \$5.48 million, with the bulk—\$4,918,549 and \$200,000—going to personnel and repairs/maintenance, respectively.

Pua said they support the 2004 proposed budget from the governor.

In disclosing what they expect to receive from federal programs, Pua said that DFEMS will get \$30,000 from the State Fire As-

sistance; \$60,000 from the Cooperative Fire Protection Program; \$118,000 from Cooperative Fire Program; \$38,700 from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for EMS; \$132,000 from EMS for Children; and \$100,000 from the Office of Grants and Management's Compact Impact.

Among the department's recent accomplishments was the completion of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus refilling station at the Garapan Fire Station. The project was worth \$123,000, with the costs shared by the Office of Insular Affairs and DFEMS.

"So every time our SCBA ran out of fuel, we have a designated area where we can go and refill," said Pua.

In the past, DFEMS would go to the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting's fire station to refill.

Pua said they, however, still work with the ARFF. An example is when ARFF's SCBA refilling station needs to be serviced, they make sure that their SCBA is online so that if something happens, they all work together to help each other.

He said they have 158 personal protective equipment that have also been distributed to Tinian and Rota.

The acting commissioner said they have purchased two jet ski and two

all-terrain vehicles.

He said DFEMS is almost done with Phase 1 of the roof hardening for the Susupe and Kagman fire stations. About \$5 million for that project is from Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation funding.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

'Proposed budget for DPD just keeps department afloat'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mindful of the CNMI government's precarious financial situation, what the Department of Public Safety is asking for as its next fiscal year's budget is just enough to keep the department afloat, according to DPS chief Clement R. Bermudes.

In his testimony last week before the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee to go over DPS' proposed budget for fiscal year 2024, Bermudes said their priorities are clearly the payroll for personnel, plus expenses for communication, utilities, and fuel.

He said there is no form of pay increase for personnel, no specific increase in training dollars, and no investment in information and communication systems.

He emphasized, though that the CNMI also needs to invest in DPS

as part of the goal of implementing 21st century policing in the department. He said DPS is technologically disadvantaged and, that in order to move forward, there is a need to invest in technologies that are seen in the U.S. mainland, such as automated cameras that track violators.

"You make a right turn on a red, there's a camera taking multiple pictures and you get a ticket in your mail," Bermudes said.

He said technologies that would actually help investigators could be installed in strategic areas on the island to ensure that vehicles or people that are running away from a crime are recorded.

The commissioner said these technologies would also connect DPS to federal law enforcements and other jurisdictions in the Pacific.

"These are the investments that we need to start now," he said.

COOKOFF

From Page 1

cooking competitions, Oh My Grill's Kalen and Palacios set their goals high and did not fail as they took home the \$500 cash prize and bragging rights.

Kalen, who is the head chef at Oh My Grill, said that, although they have previously joined other cooking competitions, this is their first Taste of the Marianas cookoff and they felt ecstatic to have won on their first try.

The pair, like the six other teams who joined last Saturday's cookoff, were tasked with putting their own spin on the classic Chamorro dish, *Kadun Pika*, or "spicy chicken."

Kalen said he really wanted to make sure that the local ingre-

dients he used in his dish shone while also staying true to the basics of *Kadun Pika*.

"We really wanted to highlight and emphasize local ingredients in this dish. That's how we went about creating our entry for the *Kadun Pika* cooking contest. We didn't want to do a lot of fusion as we really want to stick with local-style food preparation and cooking," he said.

Palacios shared that their dish featured ingredients that are a staple in most island meals, like sweet potatoes, coconut milk, eggplant, and more.

"We had sweet potato in coconut milk dressing, we had *ensalada* (it's like mixed vegetables with a local twist), and grilled eggplant in coconut milk. Our original plan was to include '*lemai*' or breadfruit

for the side dish, but because of the recent typhoon, we could not find any. [Of course] when you eat anything spicy, you drink milk to take away the spiciness, so we also featured coconut milk to take away the pike flavor," he said.

This year's *Kadun Pika* contest judges were Superior Court associate judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Kimberly Concepcion, Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind.-Saipan), and Tan Holdings vice president Catherine Attao-Toves.

Aside from Oh My Grill, the other competitors were Hula Pika, Madge, Humble Marianas, Team Oleai, Talaieru, and Distorted.

While Oh My Grill received the first prize of \$500, Team Distorted came in second and took home \$300 while Hula Pika finished third and received \$100.

DEFENSE

From Page 1

ample time for the court to rule on all pending motions in the case, including the motion to amend the information against Torres, the subpoena issued by the Office of the Attorney General for Torres' financial records, the motion to disqualify special prosecutor James Kingman, and more.

In addition, the defense argues that a trial date 10 months from now would provide ample time to prepare for trial and to send out jury summons.

The prosecution, on the other hand, proposed a December 2023 trial date for a number of reasons, including the fact that Kingman's contract with the OAG is only valid for one year.

However, the prosecution did not oppose an April 2024 trial date.

Superior Court judge pro tem Arthur Barcinas, who is presiding over

the case, said he would issue an order with dates that would be most convenient and will allow the parties 10 days to respond with the most convenient date for them to have the trial.

Besides Torres, his group of lawyers, and Kingman, chief solicitor Robert Glass Jr. was also present at the motion hearing and status conference.

Torres' June 5 trial was vacated last month due to numerous pending motions and Guam judge Alberto Tolentino's decision to remove himself from the case due to health reasons.

In a later interview with Kingman, he said, "It doesn't surprise me that there would be a longer timeline for a case like this. I think that there are obvious reasons to want to have a speedy trial but there's also a compelling reason to make sure there is appropriate time for all parties involved to prepare for trial. So if it's after two years since the case has been filed or not, that's not out of bounds for cases like this."

Also during Monday's motion hearing, Barcinas heard arguments from Kingman and defense counsel Anthony Aguon regarding the prosecution's recent issuance of a subpoena for a particular bank account at the Bank of Guam held by Torres.

The subpoena sought the production of Torres' financial records in connection with the misconduct in office allegations filed by the OAG against the former governor.

Torres' defense team had opposed the subpoena, arguing that it violates Torres' rights as well as the rights of his wife as the account is a joint account.

Following the arguments, Barcinas said he needs to review the arguments presented before he can make a decision. In the meantime, he verbally ordered that no documents be produced until he has issued his ruling on the subpoena. Kingman was tasked to relay this message to the Bank of Guam.

DPW

From Page 1

iting the tipping fee rates and making adjustments.

The tipping fee, which is also called a gate fee, refers to a fee paid by anyone who disposes of waste in a landfill.

"As you know, inflation hit the United States, to include the Commonwealth," Yumul said.

He said there are costs that are beyond DPW's control that they have to mitigate, such as sending recyclable items out of the Commonwealth, which the department is required to do.

As for DPW's Right of Way Office, Yumul said the office is still inadequate, with only a staff of two and without a competent manager that needs to be brought in quickly so that they can address all right-of-way concerns.

Yumul said they also do not have an in-house surveying team, so they are heavily dependent on the Department of Public Lands and the Division of Natural Resources for these services.

"And right now, we've been placed on the lowest level of priority. So it is taking a lot of time. We're talk-

ing about tracing properties, retracements, and the like," he said.

Yumul said should their Right of Way Office be updated and properly staffed, they will be able to start dealing with these issues that have been plaguing the system.

He said he would be asking from the Legislature a lot of leeway and assistance.

The secretary said that Public Law 20-52, which placed the right-of-way management under DPW, still has some rough edges that need to be clarified. A primary concern is the disposition of the fees and leases and permit payments that's going to be received, he said.

For example, Yumul said, the Office of the Attorney General still believes in its prior opinion that these collected funds need to be sent to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

But just like how the Department of Public Lands used to run the program, Yumul said they may hold back a certain portion of the collected funds for the expenses that the Right of Way Office will incur.

Yumul said MPLT has mentioned in conversation with him that they are willing to sit down with DPW to help draft the rules and regulations and any minor amendments to Public Law 20-52 just to make things clear.

Chicken Wings Eating Contest at 'Taste' on June 10

Ten competitors will face off against 200 chicken wings each this Saturday, June 10, at the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on Saipan, when the Inas' Kitchen Fried Chicken Wing Eating Contest will pit competitors in a challenge to see who finishes first.

The Taste of the Marianas, the largest food festival in the Marianas and an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority, is being held every Saturday in June at Garapan Fishing Base. The festival offers affordable dishes from local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, and arts and crafts sales from 5pm to 10pm nightly and until 11pm on the final night.

"The Inas' Kitchen Fried Chicken Wing Eating Contest [is] at 8pm, you won't want to miss it!" said MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres. "Whoever finishes those 200 wings first within one hour will take home the title and \$500 cash, so it's going to be very exciting."

Complete rules and registration forms are available



Participants and judges of the Kadun Pika (spicy chicken) Cookoff at the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on June 3, 2023, at Garapan Fishing Base.

on The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com/the-marianas-calendar or by contacting MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarians.com or 1.670.664.3200. If no contestant finishes the 200 wings in

time, those who eat the most will receive a \$300 gift certificate (first place), a \$200 gift certificate (second place), and a \$100 gift certificate (third place) for Inas' Kitchen.

This Saturday's entertainment lineup will be Hopwood Dance and Music Production

(4:30pm), Grandpa Grandson Saures (5:30pm), Saipan Studio Ballet (6pm), Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Gen-Alpha (7pm), Korea Junior Show Choir (7:30pm), Inas' Kitchen Fried Chicken Wings Eating Contest (8pm), Marianas High School Refaluwasch Cultural Dancers (9pm), and Tattoo (9:30pm).

At last Saturday's Kadun Pika Cooking Contest, Oh My Grill – OMG - Saipan served

up the best entry to win \$500 for first place. Entries were judged on taste/texture, tenderness, use of local vegetables, presentation, and cleanliness. The winning duo of Kent Kalen and Eric Palacios were followed by Distorted Miniz winning \$400 for second place and Hula Pika taking home \$300 for third place.

The Marianas Variety King of the Grill contest will be held on June 17, and the HANMI/

NMTech Chamorro Bistek Cookoff will be on June 24.

Participating food vendors this year are Bistro Boyz 670, Chagi Norf, Chow Time, Cristianos Kitchen, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Furusato Restaurant Saipan, Herman's Modern Bakery, Island Grinz, Java Joe's, Kamakazee's, Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant, Saipan Cup Bab, Restaurant Loco & Taco, Majesty Restaurant, Mariana Lighthouse, Matty's BBQ, Pho Tam, Oh My Grill – OMG - Saipan, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Surf Club Saipan/Great Harvest Bread Co. Saipan, T-Bar CNMI, The Hut, Tyler's Gelatte Stone, and Vi-lynn's BBQ. Drink vendors are MARPAC, WESTCO, and Napu Brewing.

The event is co-organized by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. Platinum sponsors are Marianas Variety, Dave Electronics, and Turnkey Solutions. Gold sponsor is Hawaiian Rock Products. Silver sponsor is Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. Bronze sponsors are EST Rental, Jonny's Bar & Grill, New XO Market, Triple J Five Star Wholesale, M&C LLC Construction, Joeten Enterprises, and Northern Marianas Technical Institute. (MVA)

Man pleads not guilty to theft

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

A repeat offender has pleaded not guilty to theft charges filed against him in the Superior Court.

Mcpeterson Tipingeni has pleaded not guilty to the charge of theft at an arraignment before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja last week.

According to the information filed against Tipingeni, he "unlawfully took" food items valued at \$92.64 from San Jose Mart on April 3, 2023. The alleged crime is punishable by a maximum sentence of one year in prison, \$1,000 fine, or both.

Naraja scheduled Tipingeni's status conference for July 5 at 10am before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Tipingeni was also recently charged with burglary and theft in a separate case. Tipingeni, 30, was accused of taking two unopened boxes of butane gas, one black bag containing various tools, and an orange Skil-Saw valued at \$300 from an apartment in Garapan.

Tipingeni is represented by assistant public defender Molly Denert while assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas represents the government.

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petitioner for the Change of Name of: **K.J.N.I.**
-INITIALS ONLY
Minor Child(ren)
By: **JAMIE A IGISAIR**
Petitioner(s)

**FCD CN
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 23-0170**

**NOTICE OF
HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 9th day of May, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055-SAIPAN-MP-96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO: CPA-RFP-011-23

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 07, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERIOR PLANTS RENTAL, SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA), 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING WORKING WORKS BEGINNING MAY 08, 2023.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE IN WRITING AND ADDRESS TO THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY EITHER BY FACSIMILE AT 234-5962 OR EMAIL: edmendiola@cnmports.com NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M., MAY 29, 2023.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CPA. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CPA.

EDWARD B. MENDIOLA
Deputy Executive Director

Date:



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-080

Opening Date: May 26, 2023
Closing Date: June 09, 2023

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Trades Assistant
Wastewater Division
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
Not Contracted
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Monitor and perform preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes, and lift stations.
- Assist in taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments.
- Cleans, maintains, repairs and paints submersible pumps.
- Lifts, inspects and replace submersible pumps.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology; Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspecting and troubleshooting principles; Preventive maintenance principles; Inventory control principles.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

600 FEMA personnel supporting recovery efforts

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has received nearly 5,300 registrations for assistance in the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar’s destruction in Guam and the CNMI and the agency urges survivors to continue to register.

More than 630 FEMA personnel are supporting response and recovery efforts in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Additional Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams are being deployed to Guam to help survivors register for federal assistance.

Guam residents can register for federal assistance by visiting DisasterAssistance.gov, through the FEMA App, or by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362). Residents who use a relay service, such as video relay or captioned telephone service, can give the FEMA operator the number for that service.

Survivors who are covered by insurance should file a claim with their insurance company or agent as soon as they can. Next, they should apply for FEMA disaster assistance, which may include funding to repair or replace their homes, temporary housing resources, access to low-interest loans or other programs to help them jump-

start their recovery.

Residents who need to protect their property should make emergency repairs now, if possible, particularly if they have wet bedding, carpet or furniture that should be disposed of before mold becomes a problem. Do not wait for a FEMA inspector, but make sure to take photographs, document the damage, keep receipts and take necessary actions to protect property.

Farmers who suffered crop loss should document their losses and contact 671-300-7972/3 or email agriculture@doagguam.gov for more information on available assistance.

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that low-interest federal disaster loans are now available to Guam businesses and residents who were affected by Typhoon Mawar. To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, survivors must first register at DisasterAssistance.gov.

Resources for survivors

■ Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and

other business assets.

■ Disaster loans up to \$200,000 may be available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate.

■ Homeowners and renters may be eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including personal vehicles.

■ Interest rates can be as low as 4% for businesses, 2.375% for private nonprofit organizations and 2.5% for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years.

■ The Bank of Guam announced it is automatically deferring payments on personal loans and credit cards for Guam and Rota accounts for three months. Affected customers on Saipan and Tinian may request deferment arrangements at any branch locations or by emailing consumerbanking@bankofguam.com.

The National Disaster Distress Helpline remains activated and anyone who has been affected by Typhoon Mawar can call 1-800-985-5990 for immediate counseling and support. Survivors in Guam that may be experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis can call or text the Guam Behavioral Health and

Wellness Center Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by dialing 988.

Safety tips for residents

■ **Make sure food is safe to eat.** Residents should throw out any perishable food in their refrigerator that has not been refrigerated at 40° F degrees or lower or if their refrigerator has been without power for over four hours. Never taste food to determine if it is safe to eat.

■ **Be safe using generators.** Generators can help during a power outage but can present serious health and safety risks. Only use a generator outdoors and far from open doors and windows to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Visit Ready.gov/power-outages for more on how to use generators safely.

■ **Avoid downed power or utility lines.** They may be live with deadly voltage. Stay away and report them immediately to the power or utility company. Do not cut or cover cables with debris.

■ **Exercise caution when cleaning and making repairs.** Residents who are returning home, should:

- Wear protective clothing and appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning mold or other debris, and always work with someone else.
- Document any damage with photographs and contact their insurance company so you can quickly file a claim.
- Ask for help if moving heavy debris in or around their home.

■ **Boil or use bottled water.** As water boil advisories remain in effect for parts of CNMI and the entire island of

Guam, residents should continue to use bottled water or boil their water for cooking, drinking and hygiene.

■ **Stay tuned to local authorities.** With heavy rains forecasted, residents should take these precautions:

- If driving, be alert for low visibilities and slippery roads in heavy rain.
- Slow down where water is ponding on the road.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Do not camp, park or hike along streams and rivers.

Federal, territorial and voluntary actions

■ FEMA is working with local and territorial officials to determine Disaster Recovery Center locations. Once open, survivors can visit these centers to receive one-on-one help with their disaster registration process and emergency assistance.

■ The U.S. Small Business Administration is also coordinating with government officials and other partners to set up a Business Recovery Center in Guam to offer direct support to businesses, homeowners and renters with losses because of Typhoon Mawar.

■ The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has about 140 responders in Guam supporting temporary power, temporary roofing and debris missions. Eight generators have been installed and additional installations are in progress as assessments continue.

■ The U.S. Coast Guard is conducting underwater surveys of transit channels and piers to remove any storm-related debris while its pollution response teams continue to

assess vessels in the area.

■ Members of the **Hawaii National Guard** are deployed to supplement Guam National Guard soldiers through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

■ The **Guam Power Authority** continues its restoration efforts, reporting around 35% of customer demand is restored, with crews working 24-hour shifts. The authority has restored 95% of substation energization, which includes power to 23 of 24 critical substations that will result in increased power to more residents.

■ The **Guam Waterworks Authority** reports that over 60 wells are online out of 90 needed to stabilize island-wide service. GWA reports that 53% of water systems are online. GWA is working with FEMA to expedite generators to high-producing well sites, and has two currently being deployed, with an additional eight generator installations in progress for pump stations.

■ Nearly 50% of cell towers are now operational in Guam.

■ Three shelters remain open in Guam with an overnight population of more than 750.

■ The **American Red Cross** is providing around 3,400 meals per day and delivering emergency relief supplies to about 3,000 households, which includes clean up kits to help survivors with their recovery. The organization is preparing to send several shipment containers full of critical relief supplies, and more trained volunteers to Guam. People who are interested in volunteering can visit the American Red Cross Relief site at the Hilton Guam Resort and Spa or call 1-800-733-2767 for more information.

■ The **Salvation Army** is delivering around 300 prepared meals to Guam’s Department of Youth Affairs correctional facility.

■ The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** has a 14-person team supporting response activities in Guam Memorial Hospital and a 15-person team supporting Guam Regional Medical City Hospital.

After a disaster, people want to help, but it’s important to donate responsibly. When people support voluntary organizations with financial contributions, it helps ensure a steady flow of important services to the people in need. You can find a voluntary organization to support by visiting the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster’s website at NVOAD.org.

To learn more about the Typhoon Mawar response and recovery efforts, visit FEMA.gov. **(FEMA)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 – 082

Opening Date: May 26, 2023
Closing Date: June 09, 2023

POSITION TITLE: DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY:	Dispatch Coordinator Communications Equipment Specialist Administration Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA \$27,456.00 - \$37,066.00 per annum, Non-Exempt (commensurate with Education & Experience) Not Contracted One (1)
CONTRACT: POSITION(S):	

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Compliance Administrator or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Responsible for overseeing the operations of the radio control and maintenance
- Expected to be a part of the Response Assistance Coordinators (R.A.C.) Team as part of the First Responders during times of Emergency Declaration as assigned by the Compliance Administrator.
- Supervises the operations, functions, issuance, and repairs of the radio communications equipment of CUC.
- Provides advisement to the Compliance Administrator on needed purchases or upgrades on radio communication equipment due to damages and/or if equipment is obsolete.
- Develops and implements operating policies and procedures pertaining to dispatch/radio communications.
- Develops and administers the radio control and maintenance budget.
- Administers FCC radio licenses ensuring radio operators are in compliance with rules and regulations.
- Monitors radio usage at all times to ensure compliance with FCC rules.
- Serves as the weather monitor and advisor for administration by tracking weather disturbances and keeping administration advised of any pending weather problems.
- Prepares monthly reports and correspondences for the Compliance Administrator.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Any combination equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in a related field and five (5) years of progressively responsible communications and radio control experience.

Knowledge of: FCC license requirements and regulatory laws; Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer Supervisory principles; Basic budgeting principles; Customer service techniques; Telephone etiquette; Radio communications procedures; Electronic equipment; Radios; filing and recordkeeping principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Basic inventory and supplies maintenance practices; Modern office technology. Strong interpersonal and communication skills, clerical skills, and moderate computer proficiency.


Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Developing and administering budgets; Developing and implementing standard operating procedures; Reading schematics and diagrams; Troubleshooting, maintaining and repairing malfunctioning equipment; Provide customer service; Using two-way radios; Preparing correspondence and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with co-workers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

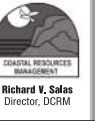
All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources Department located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (except legal holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: June 7, 2023

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing the following federal consistency determinations from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):

- Proposal to extend a moratorium on harvest of deep-water gold corals in Federal waters in the Pacific Islands Region;
- Proposed marine turtle research activities conducted throughout the CNMI by the Marine Turtle Biology and Assessment Program.

More information about the determination can be accessed via the DCRM website at the following links:

- <https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2023-04-27-CZM-MP-Ext-Gold-Coral-Moratorium.pdf>
- https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/PIFSC-MTBAP_CZ-MA_Letter_CNMI_2023-2028_Final.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on June 7, 2023 and ending on June 22, 2023. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

Photos by
KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Team Distorted.



Team Madge.



Team Hula Pika.

Team Talayeru.



 Team Humble Marianas.

Team Oleai.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2023-012	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	June 1, 2023	June 16, 2023 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhc.gov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Lulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/

JESSE S. PALACIOS

Corporate Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 – 049 (REANNOUNCEMENT)

Opening Date: May 26, 2023

Closing Date: June 09, 2023

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Trades Technician
Water Division (Electrical Section)
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$20,826.00 to \$28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
Not Contracted
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:

- Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures.
- Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance.
- Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility.
- Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions.
- Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates.
- Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas.
- Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education Program and 4 years of experience related to area of assignment.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;
- Trades Licenses and/or Certifications, based on assignment;
- Water/Wastewater Treatment and Distribution Certifications, based on assignment.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Too close this time: The country's close brush with default exposed the extreme pols of the left and right who voted to crash the economy

When Alexander Hamilton, as the first Treasury secretary, starting in 1789, began issuing debt to borrow on the good name of the new government of the United States until now, there has never been a default on its loans. Ever. That's 234 years of paying its obligations despite a Civil War, a Great Depression and a couple of world wars. The long streak was going to stop tomorrow, X-date, said Janet Yellen—Hamilton's successor as the 78th secretary—when the cash would be exhausted and creditors would have gone unpaid.

That was the prescription urged by Dr. Donald Trump, becoming a deadbeat nation, showing once again his unfitness to hold public office.

Instead, yesterday afternoon, X-date minus 2, President Biden signed into a law a compromise agreed with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to suspend the government's debt limit until 2025. Hamilton, buried at Trinity Church Cemetery downtown, can continue to rest in peace and Yellen can pay the bills that come due tomorrow.

On Friday night, X-date minus 3, Biden gave the first Oval Office address of his term to urge more bipartisanship, like the deal he forged with McCarthy. It's a plea that we hope will find resonance with reasonable Republicans who sided with the speaker.

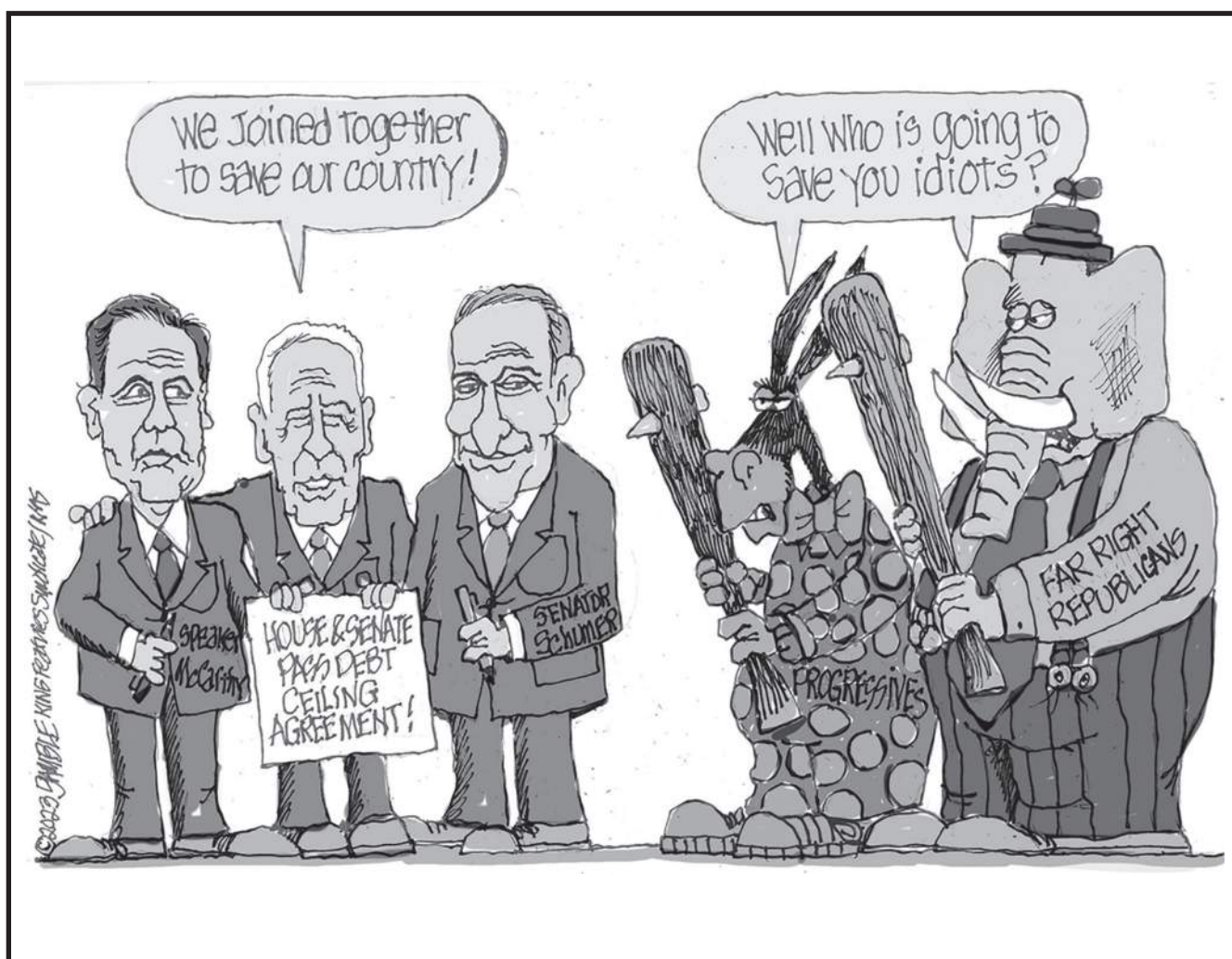
On Thursday night, X-date minus 4, the Senate overwhelmingly passed the bill, but by a margin of almost two-to-one, a majority of Republican senators voted no, along with the leftist fringe of the Democrats.

On Wednesday night, X-date minus 5, the House approved the legislation, with strong majorities of both parties, with only the partisan extremists rejecting the package.

How could anyone actually vote against this? To push the government into default in order to stop a West Virginia pipeline project? To throw 8 million Americans out of their jobs rather than have childless 50-year-olds who get food stamps work just like childless 49-year-olds who get food stamps must work? To bring calamity to global markets to keep in place the COVID freeze on student loan repayments?

What would Hamilton think?

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The making of MAGA

Today we will be exploring why Donald Trump's little-understood MAGA Republican base has seemed so stunningly shatterproof—despite being pounded by nonstop news revelations of potential prosecutions, more unsavory conduct and eruptions that sound unpatriotic to outsiders' ears.

Now this: The 2024 presidential campaign attacks are just getting started. Former Trump endorsers are now campaigning against him in the 2024 presidential primaries. No one knows what to expect. And there are things we need to know.

But first, whether you are or are not a MAGA Republican, visualize the scene when "Make America Great Again" famously became a thing in our presidential campaign politics: Oh—and don't start by remembering that long glide down the Trump Tower escalator. Keep rewinding—all the way back to Sept. 1, 1980. (I'll wait while most of you reach for your nearest Google machine).

Now you are seeing that iconic made-for-TV scene: Ronald Reagan, wearing a white shirt, tieless, two top buttons open, is starting his fall 1980 campaign. He is standing behind a long, wide table draped with huge, horizontal red, white and blue stripes. A perfect breeze is blowing his perfect dark hair—and unfurling two huge American flags at stage right. Between Reagan and the flags is his guest of honor—the Statue of Liberty. Here's how Reagan ended his speech:

"Let us pledge to each other, with this Great Lady looking on, that we can—and so help us God, we will—Make America Great Again."

By the end of the campaign, Reagan had made the MAGA phrase his own. So why do Trump and his base think it is all about them? Because in July 2015, Trump made the phrase his own—big time. He trademarked it.

Coincidentally, that same month, I realized the significance—and political potential—of Trump's huge, super-loyal rally crowds that became known for their red baseball caps, with white letters: "MAGA." Frankly, I had a tip. I knew a kid who had seen something just like it, way back in 1968, covering his first presidential campaign for Newsday.

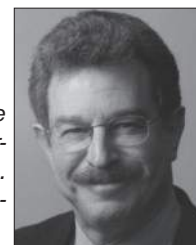
In September 1968, the race between Democrat Hubert Humphrey and Republican Richard Nixon, I went to the rallies in northern states of the third-party candidate, Alabama's segregationist Gov. George Wallace. I saw huge numbers of blue-collar workers leave factories (where their unions endorsed Humphrey), to go to Wallace rallies and cheer enthusiastically.

Why? I spent days talking to Wallace's blue-collar rally-goers. I asked them one question: If we had talked way back in

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



January, who would you have told me you liked for president? They mentioned one name more than any other: Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the liberal integrationist senator from New York, who was assassinated in June.

Those voters saw no inconsistency in first liking RFK, later liking Wallace. Why? "They were the only ones really talking to people like me." They felt the others were elitist snobs who looked down at folks like them.

Those 1968 Kennedy/Wallace-minded folks seemed much like the folks I saw in 2015, wearing MAGA hats and feeling Trump was really talking to them. They bonded with Trump. Never mind that all the pols, press and late-night TV comics were treating Trump as a national punchline. Well, I didn't. In July 2015, a year and three months before the election, I wrote a column explaining what I just told you. Trump was amassing a base of true-believers. I ended by telling readers not to be surprised if on Election Night 2016, they discover that "America's fed-up, mad-as-hell voters just chose your next president."

So now I must tell you that Trump's MAGA base still seems bonded with Trump. When Trump tells them he is being victimized, unfairly attacked, persecuted by enemies who want to prosecute him—well, they feel they are also being victimized, attacked, persecuted and damn-sure disrespected.

That's why Republicans who attack their man Trump in the 2024 primaries cannot expect to ever get the votes of the MAGA Republicans. No wonder the Republican polls haven't really changed so far.

We have no idea how all that might change if Trump ends up on trial during the 2024 campaign. We have never seen anything quite like this. Not even in the movies.

But on Election Night 2024, there may be many places where we will finally hear someone—maybe your neighbor, maybe you—following the infamous instructions of the strung-out, truth-telling TV anchor in the 1976 movie "Network," when he told his viewers:

"I want you to get up right now and go to the window. Open it, and stick your head out, and yell: 'I'M AS MAD AS HELL, AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE THIS ANYMORE!'"

We're a long way from knowing how our movie ends.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why the fossil fuel divestment movement should reach hospitals

I chose a career in medicine because I wanted to work somewhere with a strong ethical foundation. It was the same reason I spent years involved in the antiwar movement and taking action on climate change—which is now a concern across the profession.

Hospitals have pledged to lower operational carbon emissions. Several leading public physicians, including National Academy of Medicine president Victor Dzau, wrote in the *New England Journal of Medicine*: “Although many people consider climate change a looming threat, health problems stemming from it already kill millions of people per year.” And a survey in the *Lancet* found that 91% of health professionals are worried about climate change.

Which is why I think many of them would be shocked to learn how much of our own retirement money is invested in fossil fuels—the biggest drivers of climate chaos.

The First Do No Harm campaign, in collaboration with the Climate Safe Pensions Network and Stand.earth, recently released a report examining the pension funds of four prominent private hospital systems: Kaiser Permanente, Mayo Clinic Health Systems, HCA Healthcare and Ascension. We found that these four hospital networks alone have invested at least \$4.6 billion in fossil fuels and estimate that privately owned U.S. hospitals have well over \$10 billion invested in the fossil fuel economy.

Kaiser Permanente, for example, has \$80.2 million invested in Suncor Energy, among the world’s largest producers of environmentally destructive “tar sands” oil, which produces at least 17% more carbon pollution than conventional crude oil. The Mayo Clinic, often called America’s best hospital, has over \$40 million invested directly in fossil fuel production giants, including Exxon Mobil and Conoco Phillips.

I believe hospitals deliver enormous benefits to their communities, and I know they have a financial responsibility to their pensioners and investors. But they are making

a big mistake—for their balance sheets and their patients’ health—by investing in fossil fuels.

To start with, these investments are a bad bet financially. Despite a temporary surge in prices after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, long-term analyses of the stock market make clear that the economic prospects of the fossil fuel industry are grim. The industry has been unable to deny that the economic shift to renewable energy has begun. The value of fossil fuel companies is poised for a crash as the world gets serious about limiting the use of oil, coal and natural gas. It is just a question of when.

But even more important is the role these investments play in climate change, of which fossil fuel companies are both the biggest driver and the biggest obstacles to solutions. These companies have spent billions lobbying the government to slow climate action and lied for decades about climate science and about their plans to stop polluting.

In that time, climate change has become a health crisis. The National Academy of Medicine calls it “one of the most significant threats to human health in the 21st century.”

Health impacts from global warming and the continued burning of fossil fuels already claim 13 million lives annually from environmental factors including air pollution, disease and extreme weather events like California’s devastating wildfires. Scientists warn that continuing the status quo could lead to temperatures rising by more than 4 degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit), resulting in cataclysmic levels of mass starvation and death. That’s the future these hospitals are currently investing in, even though they will be on the front lines of dealing with the consequences.

These kinds of adverse health impacts are what motivated the health industry’s last major divestment push, against tobacco in the 1980s and ’90s. The industry’s leadership led to Big Tobacco companies losing much of their political clout in Washington.

Drawing on that model, university students launched a fossil

By DON LIEBER

Los Angeles Times

Don Lieber is a surgical technician, nursing unit coordinator and director of the First Do No Harm campaign for fossil fuel divestment in the health sector.



fuel movement a decade ago that has grown into a powerful arm of the climate movement. Some 1,590 institutions have committed to forms of fossil fuel divestment, totaling a staggering \$40.5 trillion of assets under management. It has expanded beyond university campuses to include local governments, foundations, banks and investment firms. Since 2021 alone, institutions such as Harvard University, the cities of Baltimore and Chicago, and the Ford and MacArthur foundations have committed to divestment, citing a clash between fossil fuel extraction and their fundamental mission.

Hospitals should divest from fossil fuels for the same reason. We need to recognize that these investments fundamentally oppose our health care mission. We need institutions such as the National Academy of Medicine to call out fossil fuel companies as dangers to human health and provide leadership on how and why to incorporate fossil fuel divestment into existing climate change commitments across our industry.

The health care sector is capable of miracles. We mapped the human genome. We conduct microsurgery. We can—and must—divest from the fossil fuels that are sickening our patients and our world.

Biden’s foreign policy unnecessarily drives China and Russia together in opposition

Joe Biden had much experience in foreign policy before being elected president, but he is certainly no Richard Nixon. Although Nixon had to resign because of domestic corruption linked to the U.S. war in Southeast Asia, he was masterful in driving a wedge between the two communist great powers—Maoist China and the Soviet Union—to achieve more peaceful relations with both countries. Nixon cleverly created a competition between the two countries to better relations with the United States or be isolated on the wrong side of the triangle. Regrettably, Biden, despite his prior foreign policy chops, is doing the opposite by driving China and Russia closer together in opposition to the United States.

In fairness to Biden, however, Russia’s unjustified and brutal invasion of Ukraine makes it hard to mend relations with that nation in the short- and medium-term. (Although Biden’s reiteration of George W. Bush’s 2008 pledge to eventually admit Ukraine into NATO may have contributed to Vladimir Putin’s reckless, and just downright stupid, decision to commit such aggression in Ukraine.) But then why does Biden continue to unnecessarily aggravate tensions with China, which merely causes it to provide more economic and diplomatic help to Russia when the United States is trying to isolate the bear?

Granted, China is a much more potent potential longer-term threat to U.S. global dominance (not necessarily American security) than is Russia. Yet the United States seems to want to take care of the Ukraine problem first. It might be acceptable to threaten China with commercial restrictions in the massive U.S. market if it aids Russia with military exports or technology, but why encourage Chinese paranoia that a Russian loss in Ukraine will embolden the United States to increase pressure to weaken China?

Biden obviously stoked such Chinese fears at the recent G-7 summit of wealthy Western powers—held in Japan, an historic rival of China—by the conclave’s challenging Chinese ambitious territorial claims in the South China Sea, “economic coercion” toward developing countries, and human rights policies in Tibet, Xinjiang, and Hong Kong. Although Biden sought to lighten the mood at the summit by predicting better future relations with China, the Chinese only saw Western uni-

ty, displayed on Asian soil, as creating an American-European Japanese power bloc opposed to it over Taiwan and these other disputed issues—perhaps morphing into a future Asian NATO-like alliance opposed to China’s rise.

Even without a formal East Asian multilateral alliance, U.S. containment of the ascending China has continued after the Cold War ended by continuing and enhancing American bilateral alliances in Asia and increasing U.S. and allied military forces forward deployed near China. Yet, if China similarly deployed forces in Mexico and Canada, or even Central America, the Caribbean, or South America, the U.S. security establishment would be apoplectic.

Currently, China may be a world economic power, but it is not a global military power. It has few overseas bases and few military forces that could project power effectively around the planet—the United States has plenty of both. China has been increasing its military budget, but still spends only about a third of what the United States does annually and is just a regional power militarily. When U.S. foreign policy experts complain about a rising China, they usually talk about augmented Chinese military measures in their neighborhood to defend against intrusion of U.S. carrier battle groups in the South and East

By IVAN ELAND

Tribune News Service

Ivan Eland is Senior Fellow with the Independent Institute and author of several books, including War and the Rogue Presidency.



China Seas and Chinese insidious “economic penetration” around the world. The latter entails commerce that, unlike interaction in the security realm, is mutually beneficial (including for the United States) rather than zero-sum and the “Belt and Road” project in which China merely wastes its resources trying to win amorphous, and often fleeting, influence in the developing world by building boondoggle government-directed infrastructure projects.

Thus, Biden, instead of hyperventilating about a “rising China,” should specify the Chinese “threat” and put it into proper perspective for the American people—which should allow President Biden to make his prediction of a thawing of relations between the two countries a reality. Perhaps a less threatened China then would be more inclined to put pressure on Russia to settle the Ukraine conflict instead of rallying to its side to circle the wagons against the United States and the West.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What are the existing gun laws in the CNMI?

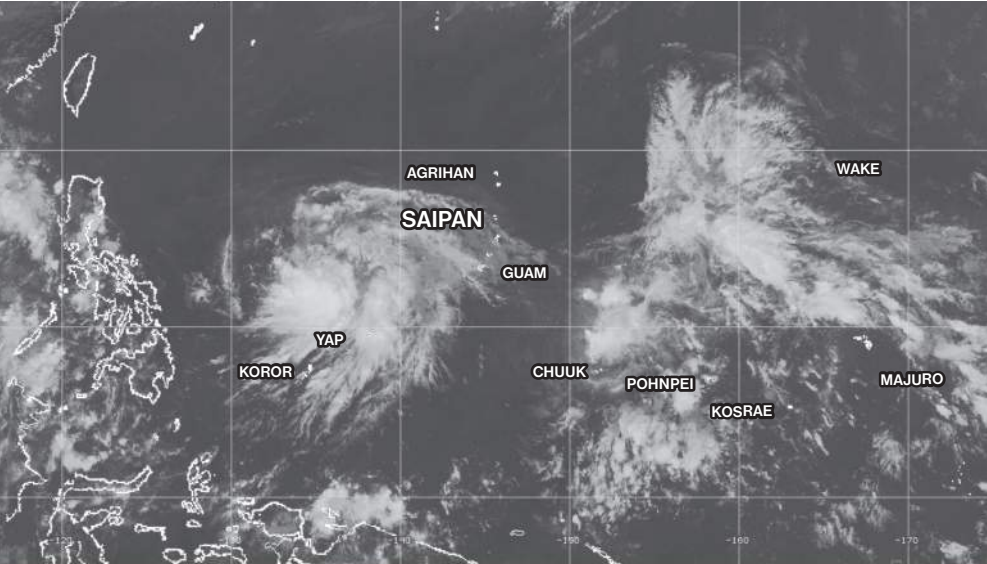
To all CNMI government entities—Judiciary, Executive Branch, and Legislature—all CNMI government offices, the CNMI Bar Association, the Chamber of Commerce on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, the Marianas Visitors Authority, any and all other concerned groups and private citizens: Please inform and educate the CNMI public via all media sources including radio, television, and newspapers—both print and online editions—of existing (as of 2023 to date) all current CNMI gun laws. Please post handbills in Chamorro, Carolinian, Chinese, and English of these laws in

front of stores, restaurants, and other public places. This should not require lengthy meetings about pending legislation or whose responsibility it is to do so. This is to ask the government, legal, and business community to inform the public of what CNMI laws concerning guns—possession, licensing, and ownership—that already exist. If one life or many lives is saved by doing so it will be well worth it. Thank you.

Joey Connolly
Chinatown, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Partly sunny		Partly sunny		Mostly sunny	
85°	76°	85°	75°	84°	76°	85°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:09 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mid to high clouds continue to waft overhead, courtesy of deep convection far to our southwest. Spotty trade-wind showers are seen on satellite upstream to the east of the Marianas and in the surface obs from PGUM Guam airport. Water vapor imagery reveals a prominent tropical upper-tropospheric trough (TUTT) low centered well to the northeast near 21N153E. Combined seas are around 5 feet, composed mainly of easterly trade swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:31 AM	10:06 PM
Thursday	-	9:37 AM	10:59 PM
Friday	-	10:40 AM	11:46 PM
Saturday	-	11:39 AM	-
Sunday	12:29 AM	12:36 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	61° / 48°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	100° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 73°	
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 49°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	69° / 59°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Rain	64° / 56°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	79° / 59°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	80° / 67°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	82° / 59°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°	
Rome	Showers	81° / 61°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	88° / 65°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 57°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	83° / 63°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	86° / 59°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:13 AM	Low Tide	1.59	
8:34 AM	High Tide	2.08	
4:19 PM	Low Tide	-0.41	
11:53 PM	High Tide	2.13	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective June 5	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective June 5
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

McDonald's sponsors Oceania Cup with \$1K donation

McDonald's of Saipan proudly announces its sponsorship of the highly anticipated Oceania Cup and Oceania Masters Athletics Championship.

With a generous donation of \$1,000, McDonald's reaffirms its dedication to promoting sports and fostering a spirit of healthy competition among athletes.

The prestigious sporting event is scheduled to take place from June 22 to 26, 2023, at the Oleai Track and Field on Saipan expecting athletes from across Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia to gather, creating a vibrant and diverse atmosphere celebrating the region's rich athletic talent and cultural heritage.

As an Event Sponsor, McDonald's recognizes the importance of supporting initiatives that promote physical fitness, sportsmanship, and unity.

By aligning with the Oceania Cup and Oceania Masters Athletics Championship, McDonald's aims to inspire athletes of all ages to pursue their



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robin Sapong, right, Oceania Athletics Local Organizing Committee; Ramon Tebuteb, left, Oceania Athletics Local Organizing Committee; and Marcia Erra Ayuyu, center, vice president and owner/operator of McDonald's Guam and Saipan.

field events, including sprints, jumps, throws, and relays, providing a platform for athletes to showcase their skills and dedication.

With over 150 athletes anticipated to participate, the championship promises an exciting and competitive atmosphere for both participants and spectators.

For more information about McDonald's of Saipan and its community initiatives, visit www.mcdonaldsguamandsaipan.com.

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned by Jose & Marcia Ayuyu, is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands.

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan have served the local communities for over 50 years on Guam and 30 years on Saipan and remains one of the island's largest employers. (PR)

FHB announces deferrals, fee waivers for Guam customers following Mawar

First Hawaiian Bank is committed to supporting the residents of Guam in the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar. The impact of the storm has left many in need of assistance, and the bank has implemented financial relief programs.

"We understand the importance of providing support during times of crisis and continue to be inspired by the resilience shown by the residents on Guam," said Bob Harrison, chairman, president, and CEO. "Branch employees and bankers at our Maite and Dededo branches have been working directly with customers to ensure that they have access to critically needed funds, and a website is now available to immediately answer frequently asked questions."

The dedicated Typhoon Mawar website is available here, www.fhb.com/en/mawar-relief, and covers topics including:

- Account access, digital and in-person;
- Debt and credit card support;
- Loan assistance;
- Safe deposit box access;

First Hawaiian encourages customers affected by Typhoon Mawar to visit the website and speak to their banker or branch staff to dis-

cuss options for their unique situation. Guam customers requesting financial relief for personal loans, auto loans, and credit cards can call 888-844-4444. For mortgages and home equity loans, please call 808-844-4178 or 800-362-7606 (toll free). For commercial loans, please contact our Guam Commercial Banking Department at (671) 475-7834 or (671) 475-7857.

The bank's Mobile app, Online banking, and Customer Service Center remain available. Visit fhb.com or the bank's Facebook and Instagram (@FHBHawaii) pages for the latest updates.

Celebrating 165 years as the Pacific's premier relationship bank, First Hawaiian Bank (www.FHB.com) was founded in 1858 as Bishop & Co. and is Hawaii's largest bank offering consumer and business customers a comprehensive suite of financial services, including online, mobile banking, mobile deposits, lending, merchant services, wealth management, insurance and credit cards. The bank has fifty-one branch locations in Hawaii, three on Guam and two in Saipan. First Hawaiian, Inc. (NASDAQ: FHB) is the parent company of First Hawaiian Bank. (PR)

sporting dreams and achieve their highest potential.

"The Oceania Cup and Oceania Masters Athletics Championship will bring communities together and create lasting

positive impacts. This sponsorship shows our commitment to the development of youth, amateur, and master athletics in the region," said Joe Ayuyu Jr., vice presi-

dent of McDonald's Guam and Saipan.

The Oceania Cup and Oceania Masters Athletics Championship will showcase a diverse range of track and

Microsoft will pay \$20M for illegally collecting children's data

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft will pay a fine of \$20 million to settle Federal Trade Commission charges that it illegally collected and retained the data of children who signed up to use its Xbox video game console.

The agency charged that Microsoft gathered the data without notifying parents or obtaining their consent,

and that it also illegally held onto the data. Those actions violated the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, the FTC stated.

In a blog post, Microsoft corporate vice president for Xbox Dave McCarthy outlined additional steps the company is now taking to improve its age verification systems and to ensure that

parents are involved in the creation of child accounts for the service. These mostly concern efforts to improve age verification technology and to educate children and parents about privacy issues.

McCarthy also said the company had identified and fixed a technical glitch that failed to delete child accounts in cases where the

account creation process never finished. Microsoft policy was to hold that data no longer than 14 days in order to allow players to pick up account creation where they left off if they were interrupted.

The settlement must be approved by a federal court before it can go into effect, the FTC said.

House panel investigates ties between US Interior secretary, environmentalists

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Republican members of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources are raising concerns about ties between Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and an Indigenous group from her home state that advocates for halting oil and gas production on public lands.

The members on Monday sent a letter to Haaland requesting documents related to her interactions with Pueblo Action Alliance as well as those of her daughter, Somah, who has worked with the group and has rallied against fossil fuel development.

The request comes just days after Haaland decided to withdraw hundreds of square miles

in New Mexico from oil and gas production for the next 20 years on the outskirts of Chaco Culture National Historical Park—an area considered sacred by some Native American communities.

U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman, the Arkansas Republican who chairs the committee, said Congress has a duty to oversee federal agencies and the cabinet secretaries who lead them and that what he called Haaland's "alliances" present potential conflicts of interest.

"The committee is calling on Secretary Haaland to shed light on these ties between her family and this extremist group so we can determine the potentially unethical way these types of decisions are

being made throughout the federal bureaucracy," Westerman said in a statement.

The Interior Department had no comment on the letter, agency spokesperson Melissa Schwartz said.

Haaland—who is from the Laguna Pueblo and is the first Native American to lead a Cabinet agency—has said the work to protect land around Chaco has been ongoing for decades and that numerous public meetings and consultations with tribal leaders were a part of the process.

Julia Bernal, executive director of Pueblo Action Alliance, called the Chaco decision a compromise because the group has been pushing for more expansive protections.

"The Alliance has urged the Biden administration to protect ancestral lands and address the climate emergency by phasing out fossil fuel extraction on public lands," Bernal told The Associated Press in an email. "Chairman Westerman's allegations are a misguided attempt to deflect attention from the fossil fuel industry's role in the climate crisis and the destruction of ancestral lands."

Industry groups have suggested that Pueblo Action Alliance, Somah Haaland and others have influenced Haaland, who as secretary oversees an agency that manages more than 380,000 square miles (984,196 square kilometers) of public lands.

Nation

House GOP ready contempt vote vs FBI director Wray

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chairman of the House Oversight Committee plans to move forward this week with holding FBI Director Christopher Wray in contempt of Congress.

Oversight Chairman Rep. James Comer said a more-than-hourlong briefing he received Monday from bureau officials about an unverified law enforcement tip against President Joe Biden does not amount to compliance with a subpoena.

FBI officials came to the Capitol on Monday to brief Comer, R-Ky., and Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the panel, about a June 2020 document that purportedly relates to Biden and his family.

The briefing was conducted privately in a secure space because FBI officials say the “several-page” form contains sensitive information.

“The FBI again refused to hand over the unclassified record to the custody of the House Oversight Committee,” Comer told reporters after the briefing. “And we will now initiate contempt of Congress hearings this Thursday.”

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy told reporters he would bring the contempt resolution against Wray, who was appointed by then-President Donald Trump, to the floor if it passes the committee.

In response, the FBI said



in a statement that the escalation to a contempt vote was “unwarranted” considering the bureau had “continuously demonstrated its commitment to accommodate the committee’s request,” while protecting the safety of sources and integrity of ongoing investigations.

The White House called the decision by Comer to move forward with contempt “another fact-free stunt” intended to “spread thin innuendo to try to damage the

President politically and get himself media attention.”

Comer initially wrote Wray on May 3 with GOP Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa. They said they had been informed that the FBI has a document that “describes an alleged criminal scheme” involving Biden and a foreign national “relating to the exchange of money for policy decisions” when Biden was vice president.

The word “alleged” was used three times in the opening para-

graph of the letter and Comer offered no evidence of the veracity of the accusations or any details about what they contend are “highly credible unclassified whistleblower disclosures.”

The document Republicans are focused on is what’s known as an FD-1023, which agents use to record unverified tips and information they receive from confidential human sources. The FBI says such documents can contain

uncorroborated and incomplete information, and that record of a tip does not validate the information.

The Associated Press has not been able to independently verify what is contained in the document.

Comer subpoenaed Wray for a copy of the document and warned he would be prepared to hold him in contempt of Congress if he didn’t provide it. In response, FBI officials

House Oversight and Accountability Committee Chair Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., arrives at a secure room to see documents he demanded from the FBI as part of his investigation into the Biden family, at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, June 5, 2023.

scheduled what they called an “extraordinary accommodation” and gave Comer access to the document “in a format and setting that maintains confidentiality and protects important security interests and the integrity of FBI investigations.”

But Comer told reporters the briefing Monday was not enough for him. He said the FBI needs to physically hand over the record to the committee, which, for confidentiality reasons, it has refused to do.

Speaking to reporters after the session, Comer and Raskin gave differing and conflicting accounts about what they heard in the room.

Raskin said FBI officials told them the unverified tip against Biden relates to information that former Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani provided to the Justice Department in 2020 about the business dealings of Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, in Ukraine. Hunter Biden worked on the board of Burisma, a Ukrainian gas company.

Rep. Santos would go to jail to keep identities of bond cosigners secret

NEW YORK (AP)—Rep. George Santos’ lawyer said Monday the indicted New York Republican would risk going to jail to protect the identities of the people who cosigned the \$500,000 bond enabling his pretrial release.

The lawyer, Joseph Murray, urged a judge to deny a request by news outlets to unseal the names of Santos’ bond suretors, or guarantors, suggesting they could “suffer great distress,” including possible job losses and physical harm, if they’re identified publicly.

“My client would rather surrender to pretrial detainment than subject these suretors to what will inevitably come,” Murray wrote in a letter to U.S. Magistrate Judge Anne Shields.

Murray asked that she give them time to withdraw as cosigners if she decides to unseal their names, which Shields kept off the public court docket at the lawyer’s request.

Murray said he, Santos and Santos’ staff have been receiving threatening and harassing

calls and messages, including death threats. The lawyer said he received a call Friday from someone shouting, “Who paid Santos’ bond?” and said he worries Santos’ critics “are just waiting to pounce” on the people backing his release.

“We truly fear for their health, safety and well being,” Murray wrote.

Santos pleaded not guilty on May 10 to a 13-count indictment charging that he duped donors, stole from his campaign, lied to Congress about being a millionaire and cheated to collect unemployment benefits he didn’t deserve. He is due back in court on June 30.

The 34-year-old, who represents parts of Queens and Long Island, has defied calls to resign and has said he won’t drop his bid for a second term.

Prosecutors have not taken a position on the unsealing request.

In a letter last week, a lawyer for news outlets urged the judge to the release the names of Santos’ bond suretors, cit-

ing a “compelling public interest in maintaining the greatest transparency possible in these proceedings.”

The New York Times first wrote to Shields on May 23 asking to unseal the names. Other news outlets, including The Associated Press, joined the fight a few days later.

Separately, the House Ethics Committee wrote to Santos on May 16 asking him to identify the people who cosigned his bond.

Murray said Santos originally lined up three financially responsible cosigners as suretors, but one backed out and the other two didn’t show up to his arraignment.

That forced them to make “other confidential arrangements” to ensure Santos’ release, Murray said.

Santos’ bond is unsecured. That means his cosigners didn’t have put up any money up front, but could be forced to pay the full amount if he doesn’t comply with his release conditions or fails to show up for court.

Ex-FBI agent convicted of spying for Russia dies in prison

WASHINGTON (AP)—Robert Hanssen, a former FBI agent who took more than \$1.4 million in cash and diamonds to trade secrets with Moscow in one of the most notorious spying cases in American history, died in prison Monday.

Hanssen, 79, was found unresponsive in his cell at a federal prison in Florence, Colorado, and later pronounced dead, prison officials said. He is believed to have died of natural causes, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. The person was not authorized to publicly discuss details of Hanssen’s death and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

He had been serving a sentence of life in prison without possibility of parole since 2002, after pleading guilty to 15 counts of espionage and other charges.

Hanssen had divulged a wealth of information about American intelligence-gathering, including extensive

detail about how U.S. officials had tapped into Russian spy operations, since at least 1985.

He was believed to have been partly responsible for the deaths of at least three Soviet officers who were working for U.S. intelligence and executed after being exposed.

He got more than \$1.4 million in cash, bank funds, diamonds and Rolex watches in exchange for providing highly classified national security information to the Soviet Union and later Russia.

He didn’t adopt an obviously lavish lifestyle, instead living in a modest suburban home in Virginia with his family of six children and driving a Taurus and minivan.

Hanssen would later say he was motivated by money rather than ideology, but a letter written to his Soviet handlers in 1985 explains a large payoff could have caused complications because he could not spend it without setting off warning bells.

Using the alias “Ramon

Garcia,” he passed some 6,000 documents and 26 computer disks to his handlers, authorities said. They detailed eavesdropping techniques, helped to confirm the identity of Russian double agents, and spilled other secrets. Officials also believed he tipped off Moscow to a secret tunnel the Americans built under the Soviet Embassy in Washington for eavesdropping.

He went undetected for years, but later investigations found missed red flags. After he became the focus of a hunt for a Russian mole, Hanssen was caught taping a garbage bag full of secrets to the underside of a footbridge in a park in a “dead drop” for Russian handlers.

The story was made into a movie titled “Breach” in 2007, starring Chris Cooper as Hanssen and Ryan Phillippe as a young bureau operative who helps bring him down.

The FBI has been notified of Hanssen’s death, according to the Bureau of Prisons.

Asia

INDIA TRAIN CRASH

Relatives try to identify bodies of loved ones

BHUBANESWAR, India (AP)—Families of the victims of India's deadliest train crash in decades filled a hospital in Bhubaneswar city on Monday to try to identify the bodies of relatives, as railway officials recommended a criminal probe of the crash that killed 275 people.

Distraught relatives of passengers killed in the crash Friday lined up outside the eastern city's All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Meanwhile, survivors being treated in hospitals said they are still trying to make sense of the horrific disaster.

Outside the hospital, two large screens cycled through photos of the bodies, the faces so bloodied and charred that they were hardly recognizable.

Each body had a number assigned to it, and relatives stood near the screen and watched as the photos changed, looking for details like clothing for clues.

Many of the people said they spent days on desperate journeys from neighboring states, traveling on multiple trains, buses or rented cars to identify and claim bodies, a process that stretched into a third day.

So far only 45 bodies have been identified, and 33 have been handed over to relatives, said Mayur Sooryavanshi, an administrator who was overseeing the identification process at the hospital in the capital of Odisha state, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of the site of the train crash in Balasore.

"It's the first time I have dealt with something like this," said Dr. Utkal Keshari Suna, a senior resident at

the Bhubaneswar hospital. "It's been a very difficult experience. I am in forensics, so I am used to dealing with dead bodies, but nothing like this," he said, standing inside the mortuary, where the air was thick with the smell of the dead.

"It's horrific. Time has also passed, so many bodies have started decomposing, so it's becoming more and more difficult to identify them," he said.

Upendra Ram began searching for his son, Retul Ram, on Sunday after traveling about 850 kilometers (520 miles) from neighboring Bihar state. The day-long journey in a rented car, which cost him 35,000 rupees (\$423), was exhausting for Ram. Retul, 17, had been on his way to Chennai to find work, Ram said.

After spending hours looking at photographs of the dead, Ram identified his son around noon Monday.

"I just want to take the dead body and go back home. He was a very good son," said Ram, adding that Retul had dropped out of school to earn money for the family.

"My wife and daughter can't stop crying at home. They are asking me to bring the body back quickly," he said, wiping tears from his eyes with a red scarf he had tied around his head.

Friday's crash was one of the worst rail disasters in India's history. Investigators said a signaling failure might have been the cause of the disaster, in which a passenger train hit a freight train, derailling on the tracks before being hit by another passenger train coming in the opposite direction

on a parallel track.

The collision involved two passenger trains, the Coromandel Express traveling from Howrah in West Bengal state to Chennai in Tamil Nadu state, and the Yesvantpur-Howrah Superfast Express traveling from Bengaluru in Karnataka to Howrah, officials said.

At least 123 trains scheduled to pass through Odisha were either canceled or delayed after the accident. The disruption led air fares to Odisha to spike, prompting India's civil aviation ministry to warn airlines over pricing surges.

Usman Ansari, who came from Bihar to collect the body of his brother-in-law, Kasim Mia, said he spent 24 hours on the road along with two friends. After reaching the site of the crash, they were told the bodies had been moved to Bhubaneswar.

They rented a car to drive to the hospital, where Ansari was finally able to identify and collect his brother-in-law's body.

"Kasim used to say he wanted to do everything for his children," he said, adding that compensation promised by the federal government would help take care of the man's four young children.

Authorities recommended on Sunday that India's Central Bureau of Investigations, which probes major criminal cases, open an investigation into the crash.

Some train traffic was restored Sunday evening on the tracks where the crash happened, after two days of repair work in which hundreds of workers with excavators removed the mangled debris of the trains.

lived beside a swollen river and was missing in the central prefecture of Shizuoka. On Monday, residents were cleaning up in flood-hit parts of Iwata city in Shizuoka, where a river bank was breached and dozens of homes were flooded. The residents, helped by volunteers, shoveled out mud that gushed into their houses, washed the floors and brought out mud-smear furniture.

19 killed in southwest China landslide covering mine worker dormitory

A landslide tore through a mining company's worker dormitory early Sunday morning in southwestern China,

killing 19 people, authorities said. The disaster struck in a mountainous rural district of Sichuan province's Leshan county, where rains have been falling constantly for weeks. More than 180 people were mobilized to help find those buried under the debris in an operation that wrapped up on Sunday afternoon. Those killed were all apparently workers with the Jinkaiyuan mining company, according to state broadcaster CCTV. With its humid, rainy climate, southwestern China is prone to landslides, especially in areas where there has been large-scale shifting of land due to farming, deforestation, engineering projects and mining operations. (AP)

World

AS COUNTEROFFENSIVE EXPECTED TO START

Ukraine tries to end battlefield stalemate

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian forces were making a major effort to end a battlefield stalemate and punch through Russian defensive lines in southeast Ukraine for a second day Monday, in what may herald the start of a long-anticipated counteroffensive after 15 months of war.

Russian officials seemed to be trying to portray the Ukrainian attacks as the start of the counteroffensive, saying that Moscow's forces foiled at least one assault. While not explicitly confirming such a large-scale effort, Kyiv authorities said their forces were indeed increasing offensive operations and making gains, but suggested some of the Russian announcements were misinformation.

Vladimir Rogov, an official in the Russia-backed administration of Ukraine's partly occupied Zaporizhzhia province, said fighting resumed on its border with the eastern Donetsk province on Monday after Russian defenses beat back a Ukrainian advance the previous day.

"The enemy threw an even bigger force into the attack than yesterday (Sunday)," and the new attempt to break through the front line was "more large-scale and organized," Rogov said, adding: "A battle is underway."

Rogov interpreted the Ukrainian military movements as part of an effort to reach the Sea of Azov coast and sever the land corridor to the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow annexed in 2014. Analysts have long viewed that strategy as likely because it would cut the Russian forces in two and severely strain supplies to Crimea, which has served as a key Russian military hub in the war that started Feb. 24, 2022.

Rogov's comments came after Moscow also said its forces thwarted large Ukrainian attacks in Donetsk province, near its border with the Zaporizhzhia province.

Reacting to Russia's declarations that it repelled Ukrainian offensives, a U.S. official said on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters: "We have no reason to believe any Russian action has had any spoiling effect on pending or ongoing Ukraine operations."



Ukrainian soldiers ride an APC on the frontline near Bakhmut, the site of fierce battles with the Russian troops in the Donetsk region, Ukraine, Monday, June 5, 2023.

Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar said the Ukrainian military has scored gains.

"Despite fierce resistance and attempts of the enemy to hold the occupied lines and positions, our units moved forward in several directions during the fighting," she said.

Malyar drew no distinctions between phases of the war, insisting that Ukraine's defense against Russia's invasion "contains everything, including counter-offensive actions." She acknowledged that Kyiv's forces "in some areas ... are shifting to offensive operations."

Sir Richard Barrons, a general who is a former commander of the U.K. Joint Forces Command, said that Ukraine was "clearly in the preliminary phase" of its counteroffensive and would probe Russian defenses to find weak spots, then focus its resources to ram through them and hold ground. Barrons, now co-chair of the U.K.-based strategic consulting firm Universal Defence & Security Solutions, told The Associated Press the Ukrainians are "trying to increase the chances of surprise about when you do it, where you do it and how you do it."

Commenting on the Russian military's assertion that it thwarted a big Ukrainian attack, he said it could be part of Ukrainian efforts to probe Russian defenses and test its units in combat. He added that Moscow could have exaggerated the scale of the fighting and claimed victory to assuage its domestic Russian audience.

Barrons predicted that the Ukrainian counteroffensive would involve a series of moves and take weeks.

"It's a process, not an event," he said.

Ukraine often waits until the completion of its military op-

erations to confirm its actions.

A Ukrainian Defense Ministry video showed soldiers putting a finger to their lips in a sign to keep quiet. "Plans love silence," it said on the screen. "There will be no announcement of the start."

Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk are two of the four provinces that President Vladimir Putin claimed as Russian territory last fall and which Moscow partially controls.

Russia's Defense Ministry said it had pushed back a "large-scale" assault Sunday at five places in Donetsk province. The announcement couldn't be independently verified, and while Ukrainian officials reported fighting in that area, they didn't confirm a retreat.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said in an unusual overnight video that 250 Ukrainian personnel were killed in the fighting in Donetsk province, and 16 Ukrainian tanks, three infantry fighting vehicles and 21 armored combat vehicles were destroyed.

In response, the Center for Strategic Communications of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said Russian forces were "stepping up their information and psychological operations."

"To demoralize Ukrainians and mislead the community (including their own population), Russian propagandists will spread false information about the counteroffensive, its directions and the losses of the Ukrainian army. Even if there is no counteroffensive," a statement on Telegram read.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the Russians overreacted to its latest push.

"We see how hysterically Russia perceives every step we take there, every position we take," Zelenskyy said in his nightly address.

ASIAN BRIEFS

3 missing in or near rivers swollen by heavy rains in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Rescue workers in Japan searched Monday for three people who went missing in or near rivers swollen by heavy rains last week that left one person dead and dozens injured. A man in his 60s who was pulled from a flooded car Friday in the central city of Toyohashi was pronounced dead over the weekend. In Wakayama prefecture, a woman was seen being swept into a swollen river while driving and an older man who went to check on a friend in a riverside neighborhood is also believed to have been swept away. Rescuers also are searching for a person who

Good Housekeeping

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Homes make a first impression on visitors within seconds of entering the space. The foyer, or point of entry, serves as a sneak peek of what's to come. The initial message can be warm and welcoming, bold and bright, or functional and inviting. Regardless of the feeling you want to convey, look for opportunities to introduce a sense of style to create a great first impression.

Where to start

Begin by standing in the space and consider how you want



In a small space, a point of entry is created with the help of a console and mirror.

HANDOUT/TNS



An entry console provides functionality and makes a design statement.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS



Black-and-white photography makes a bold statement upon entry in a downtown urban loft.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

Make a great first impression with your point of entry



HANDOUT/TNS

An entry feels warm and inviting accented with a pop of color.



HANDOUT/TNS

An entry table helps create a point of entry and ground a large entry space.

guests to feel upon entering. What do you need to make the space function? Is this a space where you need to leave keys and hats, or do you want it be more of a design statement?

As you plan out your space, consider these Design Recipes do's and don'ts.

DO'S

Do use art to introduce color and graphics. Artwork in entryways can create a bold design statement and wow factor.

Do use seating to add an element of function and design.

Do use mirrors to open and brighten a space.

DON'TS

Don't overcrowd an entry with too much furniture.

Don't use colors or style elements that are not in line with the overall decor of the home.

Don't create an entry that is dark or gloomy. Look for ways to add light and bright elements.



HANDOUT/TNS

Symmetry and neutrality help create an inviting entryway.

Life & Style

Lawyer: ‘Nothing out of bounds’ for reporters seeking scoops

LONDON (AP)—A broken thumb, a back injury, dabbling with drugs and dating girls.

No event in the life of a young Prince Harry was too trivial or private for the journalists of Mirror Group Newspapers to resist, and the demand for such scoops led to the use of illegal means to dig up dirt, his lawyer said Monday in the opening of his phone hacking lawsuit.

“Nothing was sacrosanct or out of bounds and there was no protection from these unlawful information-gathering methods,” attorney David Sherborne said.

But a defense lawyer said it would have been foolish to spy on a figure like Harry with such

tight security, and he rejected allegations that Mirror Group reporters ever eavesdropped on his phone’s voice messages.

“There is simply no evidence capable of supporting the finding that the Duke of Sussex was hacked, let alone on a habitual basis,” attorney Anthony Green said. “Zilch, zero, nil, nada, niente, nothing.”

Harry’s highly anticipated showdown with the publisher of the Daily Mirror in his battles with the British press got off to an anticlimactic start when the star failed to show up—to the chagrin of the judge and defense lawyer.

Harry was unavailable to testify that afternoon because he’d taken a flight Sunday from Los

Angeles after the birthday of his 2-year-old daughter, Lilibet, Sherborne said.

“I’m a little surprised,” said Justice Timothy Fancourt, noting he had directed Harry to be prepared to testify.

Green said he was “deeply troubled” by Harry’s absence.

The case against Mirror Group is the first of the prince’s several lawsuits against the media to go to trial, and one of three alleging tabloid publishers unlawfully snooped on him in their cutthroat competition for scoops on the royal family.

When he enters the witness box, Harry, 38, will be the first member of the British royal family in more than a century to testify in court.

He is expected to describe his anguish and anger over being hounded by the media throughout his life, and its impact on those around him.

Harry’s fury at the U.K. press—and sometimes at his own royal relatives for what he sees as their collusion with the media—runs through his memoir, “Spare,” and interviews conducted by Oprah

Winfrey and others.

He has blamed paparazzi for causing the car crash that killed his mother, Princess Diana, and said harassment and intrusion by the U.K. press, including allegedly racist articles, led him and his wife, Meghan, to flee to the U.S. in 2020 and leave royal life behind.

While Harry’s memoir and

other recent media ventures have been an effort to reclaim his life’s narrative, which had largely been shaped by the media, he will have no such control when he faces cross-examination in a courtroom full of reporters taking down every word.

Green said he plans to question the Duke for a day and a half.

Cuba Gooding Jr. faces start of civil trial in rape case

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. faces the start of a civil trial Tuesday on accusations that he raped a woman in a New York City hotel a decade ago, an encounter that he contends was consensual after the two met at a nearby restaurant.

The trial was scheduled to begin with jury selection in Manhattan federal court as the Oscar-winning “Jerry Maguire” star confronts allegations that he met the woman in Manhattan, persuaded her to join him at a hotel, and convinced her to stop at his room so he could change clothing.



Gooding Jr.

The woman, who has proceeded anonymously but has been told she must reveal her name at trial, said in her lawsuit that Gooding raped her in his room. His lawyers, though, insist that it was consensual sex and that she bragged afterward to others that she had sex with a celebrity.

The lawsuit seeks \$6 million in damages. It was filed against a man who authorities say has been accused of committing

sexual misconduct against more than 30 other women, including groping, unwanted kissing and other inappropriate behavior.

Late last week, Judge Paul A. Crotty ruled that he will let three women testify that they also were subjected to sudden sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults after meeting Gooding in social settings such as festivals, bars, nightclubs and restaurants.

One of the women planning to testify at the trial is Kelsey Harbert, who told police Gooding fondled her without her consent at Magic Hour Rooftop Bar & Lounge near Times Square in 2019.

‘Cheers’ bar sells for \$675,000 at Dallas auction

DALLAS (AP)—The bar from the television series “Cheers” sold for \$675,000 at auction over the weekend, garnering the highest bid among the nearly 1,000 props, costumes and sets from classic TV shows offered up from a collection amassed by one man over more than three decades.

Heritage Auctions said that the items sold during its three-day event that wrapped up Sunday in Dallas brought in over \$5 million. James Comisar has said that after his dream of creating a museum to house his collection failed to come together, it was time for the pieces to go to fans to enjoy.

“The auction’s success confirmed what I have always known: that television characters are cherished members of our extended family and that their stories and our own are inseparable,”

Comisar said in a news release from the auction house.

The Batman and Robin costumes worn by Adam West and Burt Ward in the 1960s television series went for \$615,000, while the set where Johnny Carson hosted guests on “The Tonight Show” went for \$275,000, Heritage Auctions said.



AP

The bar used on the set of the television series “Cheers” and some costumes worn by actors on the sitcom are displayed, April 27, 2023, in Irving, Texas.

The set from “All in the Family”—which included Archie and Edith Bunker’s living and dining rooms and stairwell—sold for \$125,000, and the auction house said the same buyer also made the winning bid of \$250,000 for the chairs used by the TV couple in the show’s ninth season.

Hollywood actors guild votes to authorize strike, as writers strike continues

Actors represented by the Hollywood union SAG-AFTRA voted Monday evening to authorize a strike if they don’t agree on a new contract with major studios, streamers and production companies by June 30.

The strike authorization was approved by an overwhelming margin—nearly 98% of the 65,000 members who cast votes.

The guild, which represents over 160,000 screen actors, broadcast journalists, announcers, hosts and stunt performers, begins its negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers on Wednesday, over a month after the Writers Guild of America began striking over its own dispute with AMPTP. If the actors union ultimately moves forward with the strike, it would be limit-

ed to television and film productions; news and broadcast work would not be directly affected.

At stake is increased base compensation, which actors say has been undercut by inflation and the streaming ecosystem, the threat of unregulated use of artificial intelligence, benefit plans and the burden of “self-taped auditions”—the cost of which used to be the responsibility of casting and production.

Wife’s ability to trust her husband takes a hit

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in our early 70s. We have been married seven years. I was celibate before we met and thrilled to have a partner I respected and was attracted to. Our sex life seemed normal and exciting with lots of kisses and hugs throughout the day.

Recently, I caught him on a phone sex call and then discovered he visits sex chat rooms. I’m devastated. I feel betrayed and angry that my trust has been violated. After several attempts to lie, he finally admitted the truth, but said it was a “recent” thing—which was even more insulting!

My therapist says men don’t suddenly take up phone sex and pornography in their 70s. When I shared that with my husband, he revealed it wasn’t “as often” in the past. He swears he loves me and will get help, but I can’t imagine how I can trust him again.

He doesn’t seem to want to talk about it any further, other than taking some online classes dealing with porn addiction. Our relationship has always been cordial and friendly and that continues, though I’m no longer willing to have sex at this time. My impulse is to bolt. I’m too old to deal with this nonsense, and I just want to live the rest of my life in peace. What do you think?

THROWN IN KANSAS

■ ■ ■

DEAR THROWN: Please ignore your impulse to bolt. When you started your letter, you stated you had a good marriage to a man you respect and are attracted to—with the bonus of kisses and hugs throughout the day. Your husband isn’t having physical contact with anyone on the “hotline.”

If your therapist hasn’t told you, many thousands of individuals of both sexes consider porn to be erotica and helpful, and many couples use it to enhance their sex lives. Rather than sacrifice what has been a successful marriage, you and your husband would be better off scheduling some appointments with a marriage and family therapist, and possibly one who specializes in sex therapy to help you overcome your emotional issue on this highly personal subject.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My former husband of 28 years cheated on me for the last 15 years of our marriage. For the last six years, I have been in a healthy and happy relationship. I went to counseling for five years and, per the counselor, I don’t need to go anymore.

My 36-year-old daughter wants me to attend family gatherings with my ex and his wife (his third mistress). I have gone to two of them, but I really have no desire to do it any longer. My daughter is telling me I still have “issues that I need to

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



heal” and has been lecturing me about this for years. Must I sacrifice my feelings for hers?

CLEAN BREAK IN NEW ENGLAND

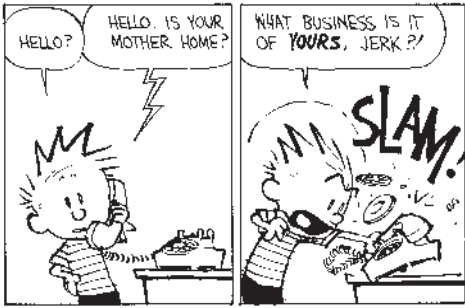
■ ■ ■

DEAR CLEAN BREAK: No, you have suffered enough. I see no reason why you must continue to expose yourself to the company of two people you neither like nor respect. If your daughter cannot accept this, then perhaps SHE needs counseling to understand it.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

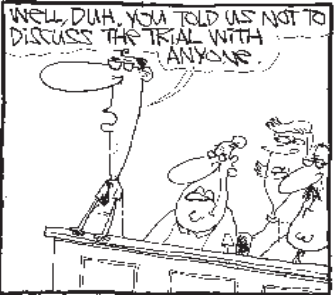
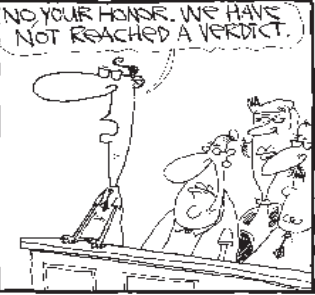


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Whis-pered "Hey!"

5 USMC rank

8 Not many

12 "Oops!"

13 Put on TV

14 Volcanic flow

15 Guarantees

17 Coffin support

18 Appeared to be

19 Hexes

21 "Xanadu" band

22 Old salts

23 Jug handle

26 Vat

28 Kick off

31 Radar image

33 Road rescue

35 Miles away

36 Iraqi port city

38 Marry

DOWN

1 "in Boots"

2 Actress

3 Achy

4 Motif

5 Disbursed

6 Fragrant tree

7 Top of a wave

8 Edmon-ton's

9 Guarantees

10 Daring

11 Major

16 Fedora fabric

20 Faux —

23 Recede

24 Pie

25 Guarantees

27 Fiddle stick

29 Zodiac animal

30 Capote nick-name

32 Favors

34 Live online

37 Mature

39 Arrears

42 Factions

44 Audition CDs

45 Ergo

46 Brewer's kiln

48 Funny person

49 "Money" object

50 Pronto

53 MSNBC's Melber

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-7

K I L O D E B D A S H
O D O R C A U E S P O
B E T A I E S I L E A N
E S S A R E S T A T C
A P C B A A
A M P I E G O O D O N F
T R I P T U X A B C T
H I G H W A Y T W I T S
A I R D E N
H A Y D N D U E B A H
O R E O G A M M A R A Y
P I N G A M P C A R P
S A S S Y E S T Y P E

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Aaron Pierre, 29; Iggy Azalea, 33; Michael Cera, 35; Bill Hader, 45.

Happy Birthday: Pick up the pace and shoot for the stars. Bring meaning to your goals, and adjust your schedule to suit the demand. The incentive to reach your destination this year will be more straightforward if you simplify and stick to your plan. Take a step back from people who drag you down or tempt you to be unproductive. Learn through observation and experience, and avoid mistakes. Your numbers are 4, 17, 23, 27, 32, 35, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Direct your energy wisely. Don't take on so much that you can't focus on what's meaningful. Call on those with a good track record, and you'll feel assured they will pitch in and help. Romance is in the stars. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be passionate, say what's on your mind and finish things on time. Don't let what others choose to do slow you down. Change whatever you aren't satisfied with, and you'll eliminate frustration and feel good about yourself and your accomplishments. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An energetic approach will bring attention and valuable input from experts. Speak from the heart, and follow through with actions confirming your position and reaction. Stick to a budget you can afford, and verify information before passing it along. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your consistency will make a difference today. Get your facts straight before you pass along

information, and find out what things cost before you commit to purchasing. Put a budget in place and sharpen your negotiation skills. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep things in perspective. You'll feel the need to overdo it or embellish information that initiates financial or emotional costs. Listen to reason when dealing with health or personal issues. Make partnerships priorities, and nurture and protect what you care about most. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Determine what you must do to reach your goal. Emphasize educational pursuits, practice and conversations with people who can help you further your objective. Refuse to allow anyone to interfere with your plans or burden you with emotional trauma. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on situations that require your attention. The more familiar you are with what it will cost to reach your goal, the easier it will be to negotiate. A partnership or any backup you can get will help you achieve what's important to you. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A reflective approach to what you are up against will help you masterfully conduct business with others. Refuse to let emotions take over since skills and facts count when trying to get your way. A simple solution is favored. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your finances in order before you take on additional expenses. Don't be fooled by someone who tends to embellish situations. Pay attention to how others treat you, and nurture the relationships that matter most. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Change begins with you. Entertain the possibilities, and connect with people who can offer expert advice to eliminate any uncertainty you have regarding your next move. A subtle change will be better than no change at all. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Follow through with your thoughts and plans. Refuse to let what others do or say stand between you and your happiness. Fight for what you want, and be the master of your domain. A lifestyle change will enhance your life. Romance is favored. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let fear limit what you can achieve. Trust and believe in yourself and manage your time and money to fit your long-term plans. Altering how you earn or manage your money will make your life easier and your goals attainable. ****
Birthday Baby: You are lively, entertaining and passionate. You are aggressive and protective.

☿: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ♀: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☽: Aim high; start new projects. ♀♂: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6 8 5 9 2

7 6 9 5

2 7 4 8 9 3

4 3 8 1

3 6 3 7 9

2 6 9 7 9

2 1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8 5 6 1 4 9 2 7 3

9 4 3 2 7 5 6 1 8

1 2 7 8 6 3 5 4 9

3 9 1 5 2 7 4 8 6

2 6 8 4 9 1 3 5 7

4 7 5 6 3 8 9 2 1

5 3 9 7 1 2 8 6 4

7 8 4 9 5 6 1 3 2

6 1 2 3 8 4 7 9 5

Difficulty: ★★★ 6/7
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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SEMI-FREDDO, PLEASE!

Solution: 9 letters

O I H C A T S I P R A L I N E

S R E Z E E R F L A V O R S S

S L A ® E F R E S H I N G O A

E E E N ① K D E C I L S F D U

R M R M G ② A E C C E T E H C

P O U U A E ③ C M I B P M O E

S N T C P R S H R I P O E R N

E F X O N E A R S I L E S U O

X I E U I Z E C H D L A S E P

T G T K E B O W S D N T U U R

R S O L W T A S G G E O O Q A

A O N A T T R E S S E D M I C

C U R I E E N A P F A O L L S

T T I R A M I S U M M E R O A

S T N E I D E R G N I K L I M

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Almonds, Biscotti, Cake, Caramel, Cookies, Dessert, Eggs, Espresso, Extracts, Figs, Flavors, Freezer, Hazelnut, Ingredients, Lemon, Lime, Liqueur, Loaf Pan, Mascarpone, Milk, Molded, Molds, Mousse, Nuts, Orange, Pistachio, Praline, Pure, Recipe, Refreshing, Rich, Sauce, Sliced, Soft, Strawberries, Summer, Texture, Tiramisu, Water, Whipped
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Phillies' ace Nola loses no-hitter in 7th, wins game 8-3 over Tigers



PHILA-DELPHIA
(AP)—Aar-

on Nola's strikeout total was up — the Phillies' ace would tie his career-high with 12 — and so was his pitch count. As Nola delivered with two outs in the seventh inning, and a shot at baseball history still on the line, manager Rob Thomson wasn't sure just how much longer he would let the right-hander go.

"I wouldn't have chanced his health just for that," Thomson said.

Nick Maton took care of Thomson's no-no call when the Tigers' third baseman put one into the second deck for their first hit of the game.

No worries. Trea Turner's best game with the Phillies and a shutdown effort from the bullpen kept the game in control and preserved Nola's finest outing of the season.

Nola took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, Turner homered twice for the first time with the Phillies among his four hits to lead Philadelphia to its third straight win, 8-3 over the Detroit Tigers on Monday night.

Nola (5-4) fanned 10 and had faced the minimum through six as he tried to pitch the Phillies' first no-hitter since 2015. The ace right-hander ran into trouble in the seventh when two batters reached on a walk and a fielding error. Nola still had two outs when he hung an 0-2 breaking ball to Maton and the former Phillie crushed one into right to make it a 5-3 game.

Maton's bat-flip homer was the only hit allowed by Nola. He walked three over seven innings.

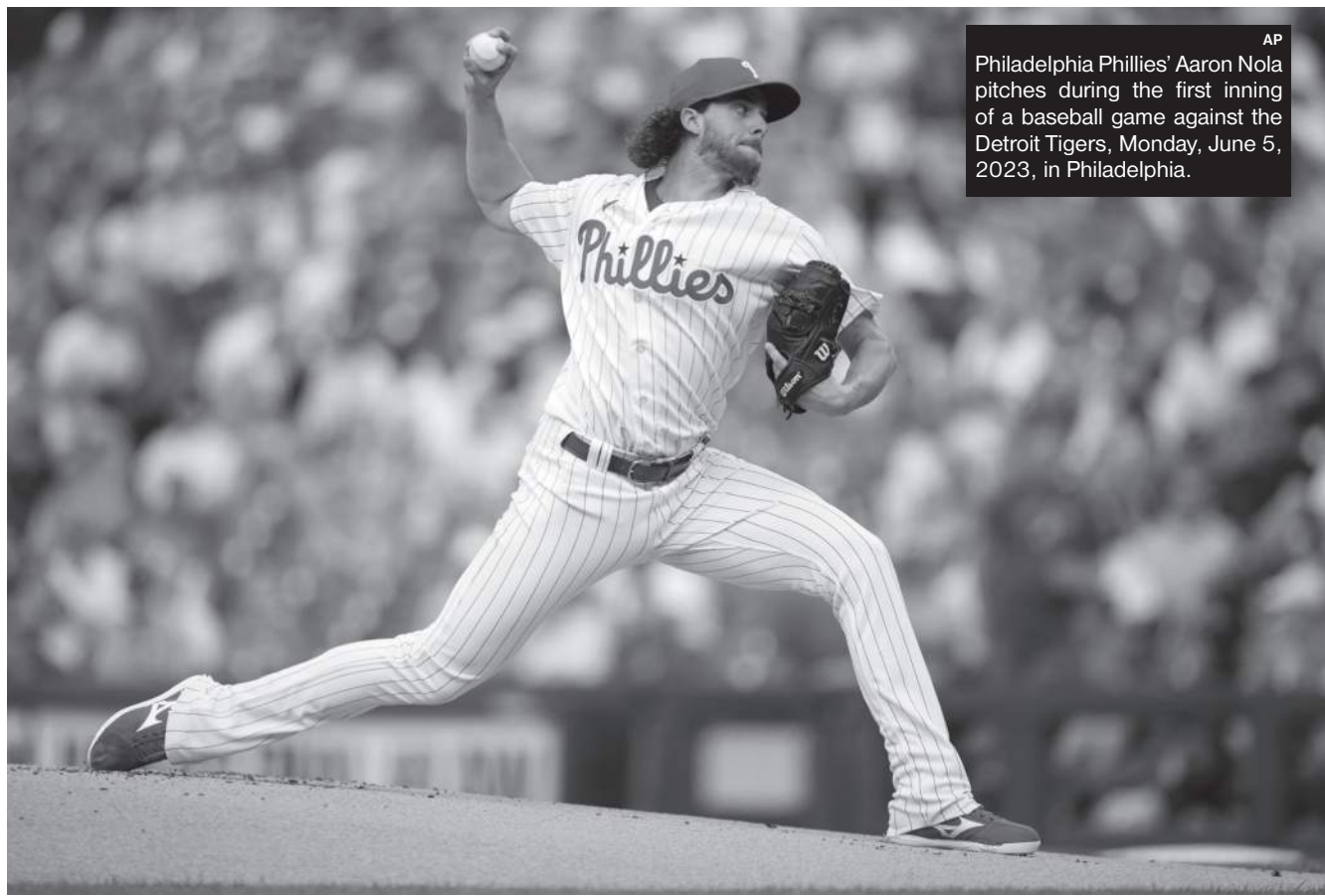
"That was a dagger," Nola said, before adding with a smile, "especially since Maton did it."

Seranthony Domínguez and Andrew Vasquez each tossed a scoreless inning out of the bullpen.

Nola walked Jake Marisnick with two outs in the third inning but the outfielder was out at first base on a caught stealing by catcher J.T. Realmuto. Nola walked Maton with one out in the fifth but the baserunner was erased after Eric Haase hit into an inning-ending double play.

Nola threw 68 of 108 pitches for strikes in front of 33,196 fans. Nola, who recorded two strikeouts on automatic strike three calls, has now pitched at least six innings in each of his last 10 starts.

"We didn't handle his fast-ball, we didn't handle his breaking ball," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said. "As the momentum grew, he was dominating the night. Anything he threw tonight seemed



AP
Philadelphia Phillies' Aaron Nola pitches during the first inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Monday, June 5, 2023, in Philadelphia.

to kind of elude us."

He improved to 83-66 in a career spent all with the Phillies since his debut in 2015. The right-handed ace is a free agent at the end of the season. Nola and the Phillies tabled contract talks in spring training, with no plans to resume until the offseason.

Nola's no-no stalled, too.

There have been no no-hitters in the majors this season, the first since Major League Baseball introduced a pitch clock. There were a record nine in 2021 and four last year.

The Phillies returned home from a 4-6 road trip in search of some last season's June success that squashed a miserable start and led them to the NL championship. So far, so good. The Phillies won the last two games in Washington and kept the wins coming at home. They scored one run in each of the first three innings on Turner's RBI single, Nick Castellanos' run-scoring double, and Turner's solo shot in the third.

REDS 2, BREWERS 0

CINCINNATI (AP)—Stuart Fairchild and Tyler Stephenson hit solo home runs and Andrew Abbott threw six scoreless innings in his major league debut to lead Cincinnati.

The struggling Reds (27-33) turned to Abbott, their top pitching prospect, to help the club avoid a four-game sweep at the hands of the Brewers (32-28), and it worked. The 24-year-old Abbott, the 2021 second-round draft pick from the University of Virginia, allowed just one hit, walked four and struck out six. The left-hander threw 105 pitches.

Cincinnati relievers Buck Farmer and Lucas Sims and closer Alexis Diaz completed the combined three-hitter.

Diaz picked up his 14th save.

Fairchild scored the first run of the game in the third inning, taking an 0-2 pitch from Brewers starter Julio Teheran (1-2) 395 feet to left field for his second home run of the season. Stephenson doubled the Reds' output with his third homer of the year, a 363-foot shot to right-center in the fourth.

RANGERS 4, CARDINALS 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Nathaniel Lowe hit a game-ending RBI single with one out in the ninth inning and AL West-leading Texas won its fourth straight.

Marcus Semien, who had already extended his majors-best hitting streak to 24 games with two hits, had a one-out walk in the ninth off Génesis Cabrera (1-1). Semien scored the winning run when Lowe hit an opposite-field grounder through the left side of the infield.

Corey Seager had followed Semien with a single, a pop up to shallow left field that third baseman Nolan Arenado chased down but was unable to catch.

Rangers closer Will Smith (1-2) worked a scoreless ninth for the victory.

The Cardinals, who have lost four straight, tied the game in the eighth after loading the bases with no outs against rookie reliever Grant Anderson. Some botched baserunning cost them a chance to take the lead after Paul Goldschmidt's sacrifice fly.

Arenado then had a drive to deep left, though the two base runners were close to each other when the ball ricocheted off the wall as left fielder Ezequiel Duran slammed into it. Nolan Gorman scored the

tying run but when Tommy Edman retreated toward third after making the turn, Arenado was sliding into the base.

RAYS 4, RED SOX 1

BOSTON (AP)—Shane Bieber pitched six innings of five-hit ball to earn his major league-leading ninth win and Tampa Bay eventually found a wall the Red Sox couldn't leap above.

In the makeup of Friday's rainout, the Rays beat Boston for a third straight game and seventh time in eight tries this year. They have 43 wins for the season; the next-closest team in the majors, AL East rival Baltimore, has 37.

McClanahan (9-1) walked two of the first three Boston batters but took a shutout into the fifth inning before giving up a home run to Justin Turner. In all, McClanahan allowed five hits and struck out five to bounce back from his only loss of the season. Jason Adam pitched the ninth for his ninth save.

After watching the Red Sox rob Luke Raley and Francisco Mejia early, Tampa scored three in the fifth inning against starter Brayton Bello (3-4) to break a scoreless tie. Raley started the rally with a line drive double high off the Green Monster. Manuel Margot and Mejia followed with RBI singles, and Josh Lowe drove in another when he beat the relay on a potential double play groundout with the bases loaded.

MARLINS 9, ROYALS 6

MIAMI (AP)—Luis Arraez had three hits to raise his major league-leading batting average to .399, and Miami beat Kansas City.

Arraez drove in two runs for the Marlins, who erased an

early four-run deficit and won their fourth straight game. Bryan De La Cruz hit his eighth homer, while Jon Berti, Nick Fortes and Joey Wendle had two hits apiece.

Braxton Garrett (2-2) overcame a difficult start and completed five innings of four-run ball. The left-hander gave up six hits and struck out six.

Arraez's RBI single capped a four-run fourth and put Miami ahead 6-4. Berti hit a two-run triple and Jonathan Davis followed with an RBI double as the Marlins got five consecutive hits against reliever Mike Mayers (1-1) with two outs.

PIRATES 5, ATHLETICS 4

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Andrew McCutchen's tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning lifted Pittsburgh its sixth straight win and sent Oakland to its record-tying 15th consecutive road loss.

The 15 straight defeats away from home matched the Athletics' record since they moved from Kansas City in 1968. Oakland set that mark in 1986. The major league-worst Athletics (12-50) have lost five games in a row overall. They are on pace to finish the season exactly 100 games under .500 at 31-131.

McCutchen also singled and drew three walks to go with two RBIs. The 2013 NL MVP now has 1,998 career hits.

With the score tied at 4, Ji Hwan Bae led off the decisive eighth inning with a single off Sam Moll (0-3) and advanced to third on Austin Hedges' one-out single. McCutchen's sacrifice fly plated Bae.

Angel Perdomo (1-0) retired both hitters he faced, and Colin Holdeman pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his first career

save. It was an eventful inning for Holdeman as the first three batters reached base, but he struck out Carlos Perez with runners on the corners to end it.

PADRES 5, CUBS 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Gary Sánchez hit a two-run home run and Blake Snell and three relievers combined on a four-hitter to lead San Diego.

Manny Machado had three hits, scored twice and made a sensational play at third base in his fourth game back from a stint on the injured list with a fractured left hand.

Sánchez, claimed off waivers from the New York Mets a week earlier, hit his third homer in seven games with the Padres when he lined a 2-2 pitch from Kyle Hendricks (0-2) into the left field seats with one out in the second. Machado was aboard on a leadoff single.

Plate umpire Phil Cuzzi ejected David Ross after the Cubs manager said something from the dugout during Sánchez's at-bat. Ross came out and continued the argument for a few minutes. He was replaced by Andy Green, who managed the Padres from 2016-19.

Matt Carpenter and Ha-Seong Kim followed with consecutive doubles to make it 3-0. Machado doubled with two outs in the third and scored on Jake Cronenworth's opposite-field single to left. Matt Carpenter hit a bases-loaded drive to the center field fence for a sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Snell (2-6) allowed just two singles and walked three in six innings while striking out eight.

ASTROS 11, BLUE JAYS 4

TORONTO (AP)—Corey Julks hit his first career grand slam, Brandon Bielak matched his career high by pitching 6 2/3 innings and Houston Astros used a season-high 19 hits to beat Toronto.

Yordan Alvarez and Kyle Tucker hit solo homers and Jake Meyers added a two-run blast as the Astros won for the eighth time in 11 games. Houston has won 19 of 25. Astros catcher Yainer Diaz had four hits, including two doubles.

Bielak (3-2) allowed three runs and 10 hits in winning for the third time in four starts. He walked one and struck out two.

Alejandro Kirk and Daulton Varsho hit solo home runs as Toronto had its four-game winning streak halted.

Alek Manoah (1-7) failed to get out of the first in his seventh straight losing decision, retiring just one of the nine batters he faced. Manoah allowed six runs and seven hits and walked one. His ERA rose from 5.46 to 6.36.

Miami Heat are on a comeback run like few others in this year's NBA playoffs



M I A M I
(AP)—The easiest way to explain

what the Miami Heat are doing in the comeback department during these playoffs is simply to put up their numbers against the rest of the league.

When facing a deficit of at least 12 points this postseason:

■ The Heat are 7-6.

■ The rest of the NBA is 6-59. Combined.

"Biggest thing for us, we had the will and we had the belief," Heat center Bam Adebayo said. "And we keep finding ways to win."

Doesn't matter the opponent, either. Milwaukee, New York, Boston and now Denver in the NBA Finals all have found themselves on the wrong end of a Heat rally.

Miami rallied from 15 points down to beat top-seeded Milwaukee in Game 4 and then from 16 down to win the clinching Game 5; from 12 down to win Game 1 over New York and from 14 down in Game 6 to eliminate the Knicks; erased a 13-point deficit in Game 1 at Boston and then a 12-point deficit to win Game 2 over the Celtics—and now, a 15-point comeback to win Game 2 of the NBA Finals over Denver.

Sunday night's rally matched the fifth-largest in a finals game in the last 25 years. The Heat trailed the Nuggets 50-35 with 5 minutes left in the second quarter and outscored Denver 76-58 the rest of the way to even the series. The series now shifts to Miami, with both teams practicing there Tuesday before Game 3 on Wednesday night.



Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra speaks to reporters after Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals against the Denver Nuggets, Sunday, June 4, 2023, in Denver.

This improbable story—a team that trailed in the final minutes of an elimination game of the play-in tournament somehow getting to the NBA Finals—now has an even wackier plot twist. The eighth-seeded Heat have home-court advantage in the title series over Denver, the No. 1 seed out of the Western Conference.

"We've won on the road before," Nuggets veteran Jeff Green said after Game 2 in Denver. "I think we under-

stand what's at stake. They did what they were supposed to do. They came in here, got a split. Now they're going home, and I think we have to go in there worried about Game 3. We can't worry about Game 4. We have to worry about Game 3."

What Miami is doing is simultaneously historic and completely on brand for the Heat. There have been four teams in the last 25 years to have seven postseason wins after trailing by double digits

in a game; Golden State did it last year on the way to the NBA title.

The other three teams on that list? The 2011 Heat, the 2012 Heat and now the 2023 Heat—all coached by Erik Spoelstra.

"We faced a lot of adversity during the season," Spoelstra said. "We handled it the right way. ... It steeled us and we developed some grit, which is what we all want. We want to be able to have that privilege of having adversity and

being able to overcome it. You gain strength from that."

The effect of all that adversity—like 44 games decided by five points or fewer, the Heat going 28-16 so far in those—is this: They just never think they're out of a game. Sure, there's the axiom that in the NBA every team eventually makes a run, and that's largely true, but the Heat didn't even raise the surrender flag in Game 1 when trailing by 21 points in the fourth quarter. They got

the lead down to nine with 2:34 left.

And in Game 2, the comeback wasn't in vain.

Down eight going into the fourth, Duncan Robinson and Gabe Vincent—two undrafted guards who were forged from the Heat player development program—scored Miami's first 15 points of the final quarter. They gave Miami the lead, and the Heat didn't give it away.

"We just needed to come out with a sense of urgency in that fourth," Robinson said afterward. "It was kind of like a now or never sort of thing. Started with the defense, obviously, and we were able to do some things from there."

What made the Game 2 comeback even more improbable—even for a team that is making rallies seem like an everyday thing in the playoffs—is that the Nuggets were 45-3 this season in games where they led by at least 15 points. And in games at home where they led by more than 10 points, they were 38-0.

The Comeback Heat weren't deterred. Heat forward Jimmy Butler says it's the "I don't give a damn factor" that kicks in at those moments.

"I just think nobody cares on our team. We're not worried about what anybody thinks," Butler said. "We're so focused in on what we do well and who we are as a group that at the end of the day, that's what we fall back on. Make or miss shots, we're going to be who we are because we're not worried about anybody else. That's how it's been all year long, and that's not going to change."

NBA says it won't mind if Wembanyama's debut comes in Sacramento, not Las Vegas

DENVER (AP)—Victor Wembanyama's next couple of weeks are now set: He'll be playing in the French league finals starting this weekend, and then the San Antonio Spurs will almost certainly make him the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft on June 22.

And if that means the French star's summer league debut comes in Sacramento instead of Las Vegas in early July, the league is fine with that.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said the league doesn't have a preference regarding the site of Wembanyama's first game with the Spurs. While the NBA Summer League in Las Vegas is the biggest—all 30 teams attend—and commands the most attention, there are smaller summer leagues that precede the Vegas event by a few days. Sacramento plays host

to one of those events, and the Spurs are one of six teams headed there this year.

"All summer leagues are NBA Summer Leagues," Silver told The Associated Press. "I'm very supportive of the Sacramento summer league. I remember when (Kings owner Vivek Ranadive) first came to the league and said this was something he wanted to do. I said, 'As long as you have enough other teams who support it and players who want to play in it, it's a good thing.'"

The Kings might be getting a lot more buzz than usual this summer. Not only are the Spurs headed there, but so is Charlotte—which holds the No. 2 pick. And it just so happens that the Spurs and Hornets will open Sacramento to summer play against one another, potentially setting

the stage for a No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup a few days before Vegas even starts.

If Wembanyama plays in Sacramento, he'd be the first No. 1 pick that didn't debut in Las Vegas since Markelle Fultz for Philadelphia in 2017. The 76ers played in Utah's summer league that year before going to Vegas.

Other recent No. 1 picks have opened in Las Vegas with big-crowd, big-spectacle atmospheres. Paolo Banchero's debut in Vegas for Orlando last summer had John Wall and DeMar DeRozan sitting courtside, as was Jerry West — three guys who didn't need to see the scalpers who were working outside the arena for hours before the game. Zion Williamson played only nine minutes in his debut in 2019, in a game that was stopped

by an earthquake, and his debut got LeBron James and Anthony Davis to grab courtside seats.

The Spurs have not said whether Wembanyama will play in the Sacramento event, which starts on July 3, and almost certainly won't address the topic until they actually draft him in a little over two weeks. Wembanyama is expected to be with the Spurs in Las Vegas as well; the league has already announced him as one of the participants for its inaugural NBA Con—which runs there from July 7-9 and will celebrate many aspects of basketball culture.

"What's made the summer leagues so valuable are really the media rights more than the individuals who buy tickets there, because it's a very affordable experience," Silver

said. "So, the answer is, I want Victor to get playing court experience and I think the team—assuming it's San Antonio—should make decisions completely independent of any commercial implications from where he debuts."

Wembanyama's Boulogne-Levallois team beat his former team, ASVEL, 3-1 in a French league semifinal series that ended Sunday. Monaco, the top seed in the league, awaits Wembanyama's team in the best-of-five final that starts Saturday and could go until June 20—two days before the draft.

"So proud of my guys," Wembanyama tweeted Sunday after the semifinal win. "Job ain't done tho."

Wembanyama said in October that he's 7-foot-3; some still say he's 7-foot-4 or 7-foot-5, and given that he's

only 19, it's certainly possible that he had a bit of growing left in recent months. Either way, he's a generational talent who'll come into the NBA with enormous hype, the likes of which probably hasn't been seen since James went No. 1 overall to Cleveland in 2003.

"What I try to advise players—and I'm not making a prediction that he will or won't live up to the hype—is to control what you can control, and I think what you can control is doing the work," Silver said. "If he is in San Antonio, it's an organization that led the way in terms of international scouting and signing of international players. Certainly, everyone would acknowledge they know how to develop players and particularly big men. And so, if I were in his shoes, or if I'm advising him, I'm saying, 'Quickly become part of that organization and be a sponge and listen to the advice.'"

Redmen eliminates No. 1 seed Sufa, 9-6

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Cellar-dweller Redmen

eliminated top seed Sufa in the first playoff game of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

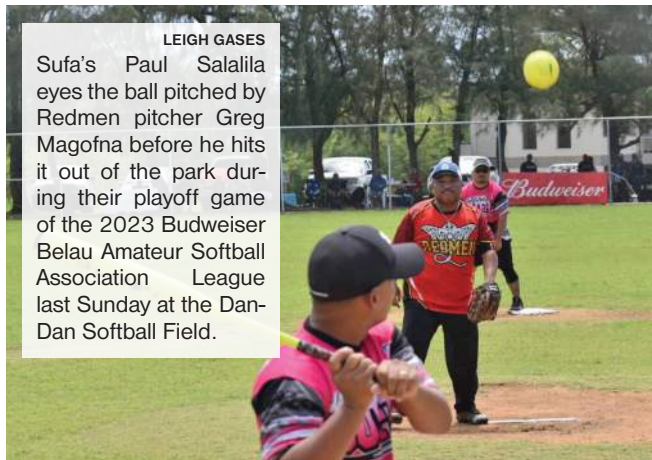
Sufa drew first blood off a home run from the home run king, Audie Maratita, but the Redmen immediately retaliated and brought in three runs in the next inning to claim a two run lead.

Ben Mesa of Sufa made it a one-run game as he hit a

triple and was brought in by Maratita's single, but Sufa's offense took a hit as they themselves could not get good hits off Redmen pitcher, Greg Magofna.

Magofna held off the mighty Sufa's offense as he retired the side in three back-to-back outs over the next three innings. His offense helped him out too as they brought in one in the fourth and five in the fifth from a home run by Left Shiro and a three-run home run by Tony Pangelinan.

Sufa tried to stage a comeback in the last inning as Paul Salalila hit a three-run home run of his own, but they were



LEIGH GASES
Sufa's Paul Salalila eyes the ball pitched by Redmen pitcher Greg Magofna before he hits it out of the park during their playoff game of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

then shut down as only one more run came in and the final out signaled the end of their run for the championships.

Peleliu 12, Momma Charo 8

No. 2 seed Peleliu finished the regular season and start-

ed off the playoffs strong as they kicked out No. 7 Momma Charo, 12-8.

Peleliu went on a rampage and scored in all innings except one. Mark Flores and Cartfield Sablan scored the first two runs, followed by another two run second inning.

Ben Hocog then hit a two-run home run in the next inning, and another two-run shot by John Taitano started the four-run fifth inning.

Hagu La'mun 15, Asahi 5

Hagu La'mun, the sixth seed, took out the No. 3 seed Asahi, 15-5, in another upset.

It was a run-mercy ruled game as Asahi could not make adequate contact with the ball.

They were hit into a drunken stupor by Hagu La'mun as they had a field day and brought in eight runs in the last inning. Hagu La'mun's Dennis Cruz, Glen Camacho, and Joe Celis hit bombs out of the park, along with two more home runs by Kevin Kapileo.

Asahi's runs came only in the second and last inning off RBI singles in the bottom of the lineup. Two more runs scored in the last inning and that was the ballgame as Asahi came up empty.

Man Amigos 18, Tokahao 12

The last upset of the playoffs came at the bats of the Man Amigos as they eliminated the defending champs Tokahao, 18-12.

The Man Amigos put up eight runs in a hurry and while they went scoreless for two innings, they came back with more runs in the end.

Their eight-run inning was thanks to back-to-back homeruns by Manny Sablan and Joey Dela Cruz.

Tokahao had eight runs by the third inning, but their runs trickled to just one each and were silent in the sixth inning.

Rob Bansil and Jeff Cruz tried to help the cause with a homerun each, but it wasn't enough to keep the Man Amigos away.

By the last inning, the Man Amigos had scored six runs and stole the win from the defending champions.

Teigita, Reyes still SBL leaders

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Isaiah Teigita and Jason Reyes are still atop the leaderboard

of the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 individual rankings as of May 26.

Teigita from the Braves is the batting leader again with 11 hits out of 20 at-bats, for a .550 batting average; second is the Cardinals' Nokki Saralu with a .522 average from 12 out of 23 at-bats; third is Cardinals' Brian Camacho with a .500 average with 10 out of 20 at-bats.

Teigita is also the strikeout leader among all the pitchers with 28; Kevin Kapileo and R.J. Riungel are tied with 22; Jose Lizama has 21; M.J. Sakisat, Jason Reyes, and Virgil Secharmidal have 19 each; and Tony Benavente has 17.

Jason Reyes of the Survivors is still the pitching leader with a zero earned run average one win from five games and 16 innings pitched, zero earned runs, and 12 hits against him; second to him is the Cardinals' Nathan Guerrero also with zero ERA, a 2-0 record in two games and nine innings pitched, zero ER, and five hits against him; and third is the CK Bears' Virgil

Secharmidal with zero ERA, two wins and no losses from four games and 12 innings pitched, zero ER, and four hits against him.

The most runs scored is 15 by Nokki Saralu; followed by teammate Shane Yamada's 10; Eli Aughenbaugh, Jerald Cabrera, and Isaiah Teigita have nine each; and Jonathan Wilson, Nathan Camacho, Giovanni Mira, and James Salalila have eight each.

J.R. Suel and Poland Masaharu have the most doubles with three each; and Henry Lizama, Jose Lizama, Isaiah Teigita, Andrew Camacho, Vicente Camacho, Larson Sibetang,

Nokki Saralu, Brian Camacho, Nathan Camacho, Jerald Cabrera, Shane Yamada, Byron Kaipat, Jerome DiSantos, and Franko Nakamura are all tied with two each.

Josenio Alvarez leads with the most triples at three; Ben Leon Guerrero, Brian Camacho, and Nokki Saralu have two each; and Kimo Angailan, Jordan Suel, Henry Aguon, Jobe Reyes, Harry Nakamura, J-Boy Mendiola, Eli Aughenbaugh, and Arby Yaguel have one each.

Only two home runs have been hit so far with one each by Henry Lizama and Nokki Saralu.

The most RBIs was made by Nathan Camacho and Poland Masaharu with nine each; Brian Camacho and Giovanni

Mira are tied with eight each; Jerald Cabrera, Nokki Saralu, and Shane Yamada have seven each; and Harry Nakamura and Josenio Alvarez have six each.

The Cardinals are still undefeated with six wins; Falcons are 5-1; Bears are 4-1; Natives are 4-3; Jr. Nationals are at 3-2; Blue Jays have a 3-4 record; Braves are 2-4; the Bandits are 1-3; the Brewers and Survivors are 1-4; and the D-9er's have yet to win with four losses.

Games have been delayed due to the passing of Typhoon Mawar toward the end of May. Games were supposed to resume right after, but light issues on the field caused the season to delay even further. As of yesterday, the lights were fixed and games resumed last night.

OLYMPIC

From Page 20

what it meant to compete in the Olympic qualifiers, and she said "I would say it's a really good opportunity for the NMI and especially for the NMI players. This went from playing against Guam, to regionals only, to Oceania, and now getting this experience to play at an international level is definitely a memory that all of us in the NMI and also all the players will never forget."

"I hope that it will encourage others, especially the youth that want to develop in badminton. And hopefully we get to play in the Olympics one day. So honestly, it's going to be a great opportunity to see all these countries live instead of watching their YouTube channel and hope it goes well," she said.

Somerville was asked what she plans to achieve in badminton, and she said "I think a lot of us here the main goal in the immediate future is the 2024 Paris Olympics—so, qualifying for that. The qualification

period started at the start of May this year until April next year. So, just play a lot of tournaments, try to improve our level, and get some good ranking points to qualify for that."

"Personally for me, I'd love to qualify for the Olympics and then have games in my hometown in Victoria... and enjoy traveling and improving is my ultimate goal," Somerville said.

The Olympic qualifiers welcomed 179 players from 19 different countries. The Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Northern Marianas Open 2023 is the first

qualifier that started yesterday, June 6, and will last until Sunday, June 11. The TakeCare Saipan International 2023 is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13 to Sunday, June 18.

They then thanked the following sponsors, TakeCare Insurance, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, IT&E, D&Q, GPPC, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Saipan Computer Services and Ideal Signs, Marianas Visitors Authority, Marianas Variety, Island Apparel, Joeten Motors, Traders Insurance, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters,

Cup Bab, Bridge Capital LLC, Shirley's Coffee Shop, MarPac, Northern Marianas Sports Association, Pepoy's Cafe and Restaurant, Sun Palace, Vicky Izuka, Saipan Ice, First Hawaiian Bank, Docomo Pacific, USA Fanter, Joeten Enterprises, Hong Ye Construction, Joeten DaiDai Foundation, and J's Restaurant.

They also thanked Badminton Oceania and Badminton World Federation for the support and the opportunity to bring the qualifiers to the CNMI.

Yesterday's action at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium took place from 3pm to 9pm. Catch today's action from 10am to 9pm; tomorrow's games are from 12pm to 9pm; and Friday is from 1pm to 9pm. Semis matches on Saturday will be from 1pm to 9pm, while finals in the men's and women's singles and men's, women's, and mixed doubles are slated for Sunday, June 11, from 12pm to 5pm. The same schedule will be in effect for the TakeCare Saipan International 2023.

THE GAME

From Page 20

high-flying guard crumpled to the floor after apparently re-injuring his left leg.

Rather than sulking, Puerto Rico Bento rallied and trimmed The Game's lead to manageable proportions before Greg Sablan came to the rescue.

With Puerto Rico Bento dangerously looming, 63-68, with time down to 4:14, Sablan hit back-to-back-to-back triples to finally break the backs of their opponents on an 11-2 game-ending run.

Sablan led all scorers with 24 points, while Arellano added 21 markers. Santos

and Foronda paced Puerto Rico Bento with 23 and points, respectively.

In the second game, New Changming blitzed Martech-Ol'Aces, 15-0, in the first five minutes of the ballgame before surviving a dizzying barrage of 3-pointers in the fourth to win 80-76.

New Changming led 33-9 and 49-28 after the first two quarters as Jack Aranda got off to a Jack Rabbit start before Martech-Ol'Aces woke up from its doldrums in the playoff period.

Dropping a 33-13 bomb in the fourth, led by three 3-pointers from Preston Basa, Martech-Ol'Aces almost erased a 43-67 deficit and even got a gimme

from Sidney Quan who inadvertently scored on their own basket.

At the end, New Changming's lead was too big and the rally too late as coach Dennis Cortez and crew escaped by the skin of their teeth.

New Changming's backcourt of Aranda and Jeff Castro led the team with 19 and 15 markers, respectively. Basa almost willed Martech-Ol'Aces to the comeback win with 26 points, while Kelvin Fitial added 12.

Martech-Ol'Aces now faces The Game in the semifinals tonight.

First Game

The Game 79 – G. Sablan

24, Arellano 21, Natividad 11, Ong 11, J. Sablan 5, Hernandez 4.

Puerto Rico Bento 63

– Santos 23, Foronda 21, Bayking 6, Fundador 5, Ibe 4, Mintac 2, Galang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-12, 38-28, 59-49, 79-63.

Second Game

New Changming Martech 80 – Aranda 19, Castro 15, Flores 9, Deleon Guerrero 7, Almario 6, Santos 6, Standish 4, Quan 3, Gontar 3.

Martech-Ol'Aces 76

– Basa 26, Fitial 12, Atan 11, Kabiriel 9, Brungard 7, Lizama 7, Barcinas 4.

Scoring by quarters: 33-9, 49-28, 67-43, 80-76.

KIMURA

From Page 20

School student to achieve FINA-B times.

"None of our CNMI swimmers can reach that," he said.

There is a high possibility, meanwhile, for Deleon Guerrero to challenge the CNMI record in the 100m breaststroke, according to Kimura.

Ditto for Litulumar breaking the CNMI 15-16 CNMI age group record in the 50m backstroke.

"Though swimming in short course time, she was already close to breaking the CNMI age group record last year. Depending on how hard she works these next five weeks, I

believe she will make it."

For Batallones, Kimura said her goal is eclipsing the CNMI national record in the 50m breaststroke.

"There is such a high possibility for it because her short course time is already two seconds faster than the CNMI national record," he said.

In the relays, Kimura said their target is to emerge as the No. 1 team among entries from Micronesia.

"I'm always excited when it comes to the relay races," he said.

NMISF president Colin Thompson and vice president John Hirsh and Christian Villacrusis could also join the team in Tokyo, if their schedules allow.



**Phillies' ace Nola
loses no-hitter in
7th, wins game 8-3
over Tigers.**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Redmen
eliminates No. 1
seed Sufa,
9-6.**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Olympic qualifiers 'big deal for badminton in CNMI'

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER

Sponsors and organizers of two Olympic badminton qualifiers—the TakeCare Saipan International 2023 and the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Northern Marianas Open 2023—along with badminton players competing in the tourney, gathered for a press conference Monday night at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Tan Holdings Corp. president and CEO Jerry Tan, Badminton Oceania CEO Julie Carrel, Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino, Crowne Plaza general manager Robert Coates, TakeCare Insurance Health Plan manager Nora Fejeran, top seed Kevin Cordon, Australia's Gronya Somerville, South Korea's Son Wan Ho, and NMI's Janelle Pangilinan attend the press conference.

Tolentino said from a recreational sport that started on Saipan in 2009, they never imagined that one day they would host a big tournament such as the Olympic qualifiers and that it's a "really big deal... We really did not know in the beginning what to expect, but we are here now and we're embracing it. We're overwhelmed, but we're man-

aging well, of course with the help of Badminton Oceania."

Carrel said that the qualifiers are held here as a direct result of the success of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games. As for Tan, he thanked Carrel and her team for their support in helping to carry out the success of badminton during the Mini Games. He said, "I never imagined the

international tournament is really happening here a year later... I hope that this is the beginning of many more international competitions across different sports."

"We would like to welcome all the players from 19 countries and five continents. It's amazing that we have these many players coming in and most of them are staying for the whole two weeks. So, hopefully this is the beginning of many sports tourism activities," Tan said.



LEIGH GASES

From left, Tan Holdings Corp. president and CEO Jerry Tan, Badminton Oceania CEO Julie Carrel, Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino, Crowne Plaza general manager Robert Coates, TakeCare Insurance Health Plan manager Nora Fejeran, top seed Kevin Cordon of Guatemala, Australia's Gronya Somerville, South Korea's Son Wan Ho, and NMI's Janelle Pangilinan attend the press conference of the two Olympic badminton qualifiers—the TakeCare Saipan International 2023 and the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Northern Marianas Open 2023—last Monday night at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Coates, for his part, thanked Badminton Oceania for bringing the event to Saipan. "It's a really exciting event... and we're very excited to be a part of it... We've got visitors here for a good two week period so we're grateful to the community and the team, and we're delighted to be supporting the athletes. We wish them all the best and this is a fantastic event for the CNMI."

Fejeran said "this is very momentous for the CNMI as we

don't normally have events like this hosted here, so we are very grateful for all the organizers... TakeCare is really honored to be part of this event. Something like this again, doesn't happen all the time here in the CNMI. To all the volunteers, we are very grateful for all the time and effort that they have put into organizing this event. Thank you and welcome."

In the Q&A portion for the athletes, Pangilinan was asked

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Kimura to coach CNMI swimmers in Tokyo meet

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Marianas Islands Swimming Federation has appointed Hiroyuki Kimura as the head coach of the CNMI National Swimming Team for next month's 20th FINA World Championships in Fukuoka, Japan.

Kimura was selected during a NMISF board meeting held last May 30 at MangoSix in DanDan.

"I'm honored by it but feel a huge responsibility as a head coach. The duty of a head coach is to bring up all swimmer's best performance there. Already I have started to focus on how to become stronger. We still have about five weeks before Fukuoka. So, I can have our four swimmers train enough," he said.

Earlier, NMISF chose Isaiah Aleksenko, Jakey Deleon Guerrero, Maria Batallones, and Shoko Litulumar as the four swimmers the CNMI will be sending to this year's FINA World Championships.

Kimura also disclosed



Kimura

the events the four will take part in during the Tokyo meet—Aleksenko the 50m backstroke and 100m butterfly, Deleon Guerrero the 50m breaststroke and 100m breaststroke, Batallones 50m breaststroke and 50m butterfly, and Litulumar 50m backstroke and 50m freestyle.

All four will also see action in the 100x4 mixed medley relay and the 100x4 mixed freestyle relay.

As for his expectations for each swimmer, Kimura is looking for Aleksenko not only breaking CNMI records but also wants the 17-year-old Marianas High

See KIMURA on Page 19

The Game ousts Puerto Rico Bento

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The Game advanced to the semifinals even as New Changming Market took the first slot in the finals of the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League resumed last Monday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

Seeing action in the first game, The Game was short handed as only seven players showed up for their do-or-die match against Puerto Rico Bento.

Despite this, The Game got off to a good start and led their rivals, 16-12, after the first 10



MARK RABAGO

The Game's Arnold Arellano drives against Puerto Rico Bento's John Bayking (30) and Darryl Foronda (14) as teammate D.J. Ong battles for position during their open division matchup in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Monday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

» New Changming Market advances to finals

minutes of play.

They would only build on that lead come the second quarter as Arnold Arellano and D.J. Ong got loose with buckets down low to give The Game a 38-28 spread at the half.

The Game continued to cruise in the second half as Puerto Rico Bento appeared stuck in the mud even as Coby Santos and Darryl Foronda tried to rally the troops.

After trailing 49-59 entering the fourth and final quarter, Puerto Rico Bento appeared ready for a comeback with Mark Mintac returning from injury.

But not even a couple of minutes into the game the

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